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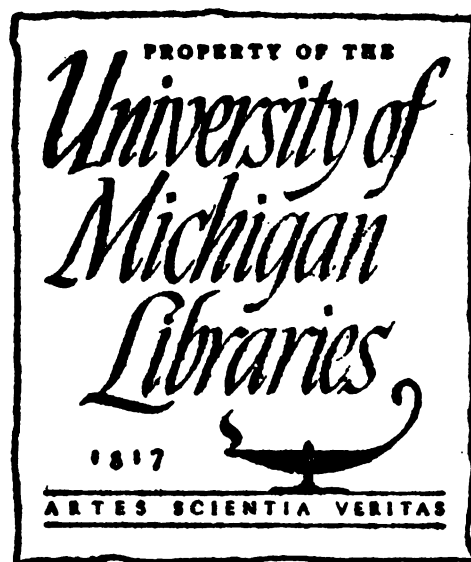
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FROM THE
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PART II. VOL. I.

MDCCXXXIII—MDCCLXIV.



GLASGOW. MDCCCLIV.

64

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THE reader is requested to observe, that the portion of this compilation entitled "Correspondence and Miscellaneous Papers of Baron Mure," occupying the whole of this, and the greater part of the ensuing volume, was printed and prepared for circulation in its separate integrity nearly ten years ago. Owing however to circumstances unnecessary here to detail, the distribution of the copies was postponed. This will account for apparent anomalies of statement or allusion in the notes to some of the letters or other papers. The passages where such anomalies are observable must be understood to have been written about the year 1844.

The asterisks appended to the titular numbers of some of the papers denote, in this Part, merely that the same number has been employed for several articles; not, as in the previous Part, that the original papers, where these marks occur, are not the property of the Compiler.

A few supplementary remarks or emendations, which have occurred since the text of these two volumes was printed, have been added in the Table of Contents, in the form of note to the titles of the several articles to which such additional notices apply.

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¹ See Part I. pp. 28, 256.

² In the text of this letter, p. 18, l. 14, for: "writing to Angers;" read: "writing to Geneva."

- VII. Geneva, December 7, 1741. The same to the same: Same subject—Travelling in France.

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¹ In the Note to this letter, p. 28, August should be substituted for July, as the date of David Hume's death.

² See Introductory Memoir, Part I. p. 34, seq.

³ In the Note to this letter, p. 40, for W. C. Porterfield, read J. O. Porterfield.

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¹ This number, and that of the ensuing title LVII. have been misprinted XLVI. and LVIII. in the text.

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¹ There seems to be some mistake in the passage of Lord Brougham's Life of Simson quoted in note to the text of this letter (p. 177); unless indeed the allusion is to some other Dr. Williamson. For this gentleman succeeded to Simson's chair, and occupied it till 1796.

² In a note to this letter, p. 181, the late Lord Chief Commissioner Adam is described as the son of Robert Adam. This is a mistake. The Chief Commissioner was son of the architect's brother.

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p. 107, conf. p. 93.

— **III. AUTOGRAPHS.**

1. See No. III. p. 9.¹

2. — VI. : 17.

3. — IX. : 28.

4. — X. : 30.

5. — XVIII. : 53.

6. — XIV. : 42.

7. Nine Signatures of eminent Professors of Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities; derived from letters, memorials, &c. addressed by them to Baron Mure.

8. See No. XXXV. p. 108.

9 — XLI. : 115.

PLATE IV. AUTOGRAPHS (continued).

10. See No. L. p. 125.

11. — LVII.* : 134.

12. — LXX. : 153.

13. — LXXXVI. : 173.

14. — XCI. : 179.

15. — CXXIII. : 247.

16. — CXXIV. : 249.

17. — {CXXVII. : 255.
 {CCXIX. (vol. ii. p. 122).

¹ The References are given to the particular document where the first or principal notice of the person occurs; which is in some cases different from the one whence the Autograph has been derived.

* Misprinted LVIII. in the Text. N.B.—There is no letter of Mr. Mackenzie in the Collection, signed otherwise than by his initials. The signature is here borrowed from one of his franks.

CORRESPONDENCE, &c.
OF
B A R O N M U R E .

CORRESPONDENCE, &c. OF BARON MURE.

I.

TESTAMENTARY LETTER: ANNE STEWART, "LADY CALDWELL,"¹ TO HER ONLY SON.

Caldwell, 1st July, 1733.

My dear Son,

Not knowing how soone God may call me from you, or yet if he will allow me to give you my last advices with my dyeing breath, or how much you at that time will be in a capacity to receave it, I rather choose to do it here, by letter left behind me, which I hope you will observe as you love y^e memory of your mother, who allways loved you as y^e children of y^e best of fathers. Perhaps you and your friends may think I have been hard on you, in making the addicionall porcions to your sisters, by burdning you with twelf thousand markes more than their father left them. But you have here my reasons for it as follows:—

¹ So styled by the courtesy of the period: widow of the late laird, and daughter of Sir Jas. Stewart of Goodtrees and Coltness, Lord Advocate. This lady had been previously married to James Maxwell, Jr. of Blawarthill, who died without issue in 1706. He was heir presumptive to the baronetcy of Nether Pollock, to which his younger brother John succeeded in 1732.

1733. First. The Esteat of Caldwell got ten thousand with me more than I contracted for; for which you will see a bond of your father's when he receaved it; and likeways my father left me fyve thousand more at his death; and there is also two hunderd pounds yet owin by my nephew Sir James.

Secondly. It will be found I have payed above tenn thousand more debt than I received, on your account; and,

Thirdly. The charges of improvements will amount to above five hunder pounds st^{rs}; and I believe none will judge it wrong laid out money.

Fourthly. You will see, by the rentall of your Esteat, and list of debts, that there was not one farden left for your Education, which I have given you to the best of my power.

Fifthly. I have assigned you to all that belongs to me, which I believe will amount to more than ten thousand marks.

Sixthly. I received a thousand marks of aunt Liliass'² money, which went to payment of your debt; so all put together will amount to the sum of 33 thousand and 600 marks. So, when this is so clearly laid before you, I hope you will never gruge to pay what I think is but justly due to your sisters by a mother whose greatest earthly concern was you, her children; and as this will be read when I am gon, so my earnest desire to you all is, that you would live in love and peace together, and the God of love and peace will bless you. And now I also recommend to you, that you be assistant to your family and friends, and above all be kind to poor Mrs. Rouat and her family, who is come of the worthyest of men, and one that your dear father had justly a great value for. You have his son Willey³ with you, who I hope you will always love as a brother, and do him all the good in your power. I took him to be your comrad after your sister Nancy's death, so I desire you to give him as a legasy from me a thousand marks; and I hope this will be as binding on you as it were in my testament; for if you guide well, you will have an opulent Esteat, which I hope you will account only a trust under God to be subservient to his glory.

² Sister of the late Lord Advocate.

³ See Note 1 to No. vi.

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5800
10000

And now, my dear Willey, I have ended all I have to say as to your 1733.
worldly Esteat; my next will be as to what will tend to your peace here,
and eternall happiness hereafter.—In the first place, still let God's glory
be your chief aim. Dedicat yourself early to his service, by a steady
resolucion never to depart from aney of his holy precepts given you in
his divine word. Let the Bibell be the whol study of your life, and to
follow y^e precepts of it your constant practice. Early goe to y^e Lord's
tabell, and there give yourself, soul and body, to y^e blisshed disposer of all
your good. I know the fulishe world makes light of this blisshed or-
donance; but God's own pepell gloreys in it as their greatest privilege
here below, as you will see your worthy father did, by the comfortable
paper⁴ he left behind him, which I hope shall be an instrument, under
God, to stirre you up to his practices; that so your end may be as his
was, comfortabell to himself and afflicting to his friends. He was the
best of husbands, which you may make some judgement of by some of
his letters to me, which I hope may be of use to you when you enter
in that conjugall steat. He was also the best of fathers, and no less a
mercyfull master; loveing his tenants; studeying to do all acts of kind-
ness towards them; and in all this I hope you will follow his exsampell;
and God will bliss you, as he did him, by making him beloved of all
that knew him. He likeways honoured his parentes, loved his brothers
and sisters, as they had been his own children, and rackoned what he
did for them still his duty, and so took delight in it. He kept a con-
stant order in his family, by performing dayly God's worship in it him-
self; which will always be rackoned one of his great ornaments, and what
I hope you will never let be neglected in yours, either by yourself or
another; for remember God hath said, he will pour out his curse on the
familys that call not on his name; and I dye in the hope yours shall
never come under that insupportable weight.

⁴ This paper is a formal dedication of the writer to the service of God, after receiving
the sacrament; renewed from year to year, by a fresh subscription of the party, with each
periodical return of the ordinance. It is still preserved, with several others by contem-
porary or preceding members of the family. Such dedications appear to have been
customary at this period with persons of pious habits.

1733. And now, my dearest Willey, remember you have much to answer for to God, who hath given you so many advantages above others. You are sprung, from both sides of the house, for many generations back, of God's pepell, and I know the eyes of maney are on you, hoping you will be one of those that will still be on God's side, in the mids of a degenerat age you are cast in. Let no interest whatsoever make you ashamed to own your glorious religion, which some of your predecessors did own to the loss of all their worldly estate,⁵ which God in his providence hath again restored to you in a more flourishing manner than they possessed, so that more is called and expected from you. In your choiss of a wife, first seek God's directioun, which only can keep you from erring; next seek her out of a good family, and of a good mother, which we reckon still a good Scots mark for a good wife. Let not money be your only care, but a good woman which will soon make up her toucher. Let her be your comrad and friend, and chief councelor, and this will be both your blissings. If God give you children, let it be your chief care to train them up in the fear of God, setting yourself as their exsampell in piety and good order; and this will make them a blissing to you and the generation they live in, and your comfort in your end. Dear Willey, my next earnest request to you is the care of your sisters, whose interest I hope you will still link to your own: let them be still one of your chief concerns. I think you may live all together. They appear to be sensible women, and I doubt not but will still make your interest their own. So now I commit you all into the hand of our good and mercifull God; and this is all from a mother who loves you all as her own soull, and so leaves this above, to you, her beloved son, with her blessing, in the inmost recesses of her heart and soull.

ANNE STEWART.

⁵ The Caldwell estates had been forfeited in 1666, in consequence of the laird having appeared in arms, at the head of his tenantry and some neighbouring gentlemen, in support of the "Rising of Pentland." They were gifted to the celebrated General Dalzell of Binns, but restored in full at the Revolution in 1688.—*Wodrow's Hist. of the Church*, &c. book ii. ch. 1 and 2.

II.

THE REV. WILLM. LEECHMAN¹ TO MISS AGNES MURE.²

Caldwell, Sept. 17, 1796.

Miss Nany,

I know you have heard before this the melancholy news of the death of my dear and worthy friend Mr. Clark.³ I have lost an instructor in knowledge, human and divine, a guide in the conduct of all the affairs of life, and a companion of the free, chearful, and merry hours of it. My settlement in Beith gave me joy, as it was near him in whom my heart delighted. Everything is now darkened to me. How I shall spend a winter at Beith, when there is none of the family at Caldwell, nor Mr. Clark at Neilston, is what I tremble to think on. Time, I hope, will prove a cure when all others are ineffectual. Besides the loss that Mr. Clark's friends and relations have sustained by his death, the interests of both virtue and religion are certainly concerned in his fall. His talents fitted him for filling with dignity a higher station in the world than he was situated in at his death; and, if Providence had spared him, I believe he

¹ A distinguished Scottish divine of the last century, son of a farmer in the parish of Dolphington, shire of Lanark; was born in 1706. He became tutor in the Caldwell family in 1727, and was presented to the living of Beith, by Susanna Countess of Eglinton, in 1736. He was appointed Professor of Divinity in the University of Glasgow in 1743, (see No. xviii.) and promoted to the Principal's chair, on the recommendation of Mr. Mure to Lord Bute, in 1761. (See Nos. LII. LIII.) In this latter office he remained up to the epoch of his death in 1785. Early in 1743 he published a sermon "On the nature and reasonableness of prayer." (Serm. iii. vol. I. of his works, Lond. 8vo. 1789, 2 vols.) This composition attracted much notice at the time, and became the ground of a charge of heresy against him, and of much zealous resistance to his appointment as Divinity Professor. It forms the subject of an elaborate criticism by David Hume, in a letter to Mr. Mure, in the sequel of this Collection, No. xvii.

² Mr. Mure's sister, afterwards married to the Hon. Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, brother of the Earl of Glasgow. She died, without family, at Caldwell, in 1758.

³ Clergyman of the adjoining parish of Neilston in Renfrewshire. This gentleman's celebrity seems to have been altogether local.

1736. would soon have been raised higher. We have some small hope of alleviating a little our loss, (to repair it is impossible in this part of the nation, for we have neither preacher nor minister so accomplished in all this West Country,) by obtaining a settlement for Mr. Craig in Neilston.⁴ The very hope of this is like a glimpse of light breaking thro' a dark cloud, for my soul is knit to Mr. Craig, and there is now no friend or minister that I love, esteem, or trust so much. He is, poor man, in deep affliction for the loss of his uncle, whom he loved and valued beyond a father.

I long very much to see you, Miss Nany. I think it is years since you went away. I take this opportunity to offer you my sincere thanks for the manifold civilities and good offices I have received from you since I came to the family. I hope, while I live, I shall preserve a grateful sense of your discretion and kindness. I intend to write you when your brother goes to town. We must all unite our endeavours to preserve him from the vices of the world, and to direct him to such studies, lead him into such company, and form him to such a sense of honour and virtue, as may make him a blessing to his family, an ornament to human society, and an honour to his country.

The Presbytery have appointed my ordination the 30th day of this month. Your brother and I were at Eglintoun⁵ Tuesday last, where there was indeed the finest company I ever saw in a private house: Lord Cassels—Kilmarnock⁶—Garles⁷—Boyle⁸—Eglintoun—Boyd⁹—;

⁴ The patronage of this living was at that time in the Caldwell family, but was sold by Baron Mure with the estate of Glanderstone, in 1774. Mr. Craig was not appointed to Neilston, but was afterwards one of the ministers of Glasgow, and distinguished as a preacher and writer on religious subjects.

⁵ At this time occupied by the Dowager Countess Susanna as guardian to her son Alexander, tenth Earl. See No. CLXXIX.

⁶ Beheaded on Tower Hill in 1746.

⁷ Afterwards Earl of Galloway, Mr. Mure's colleague in the guardianship of James and Douglas, seventh and eighth Dukes of Hamilton.

⁸ Afterwards Earl of Glasgow, one of Mr. M.'s earliest and most esteemed friends. See Note to No. LXXIII.

⁹ Son of Lord Kilmarnock, and afterwards Earl of Errol. See Note to CLIII.

about a dozen of gentlemen, such as Fullarton, Mr. Lockhart of Cam- 1736.
busnethan, Mr. Cuninghame of Caprington, and all the young ladies. We
had musick and dancing; but my late calamity dwelt so strongly on
my imagination that all that gay scene made no impression.

I am, Madam, your most obliged and very humble servant,

WILL. LEECHMAN.

III.

MR. THOMAS MILLAR¹ OF GLENLEE TO MR. MURE.

Edinburgh, 9th Decr. 1738.

Dear Willie,

I shall now lay aside the ordinary employment of the week, and, after your example, devote part of this Saturday afternoon to something of a more entertaining nature, the remembrance of my absent friends. Hours consecrated to the memory of those we esteem are certainly productive of the best effects. How amiable is the prospect of a faithful friend boldly confronting the pleasures of sense, and with a generous ardour pressing on to the dignity of his nature, to what alone can make him truly honourable and useful in life. How influencing must be the remembrance of such a conduct—how animating the prospect of such a character. These, Willie, are the advantages the man enjoys whom Providence hath blessed with the friendship of a worthy soul; and as a mutuall correspondence between friends is a probable means of securing such advantages, it is with pleasure I embrace this opportunity of acknowledging the favour of your last friendly letter.

¹ Afterwards Sir Thomas Millar, Bart. son of William Millar, Esq. of Glenlee; was born in 1717. He was appointed Lord Advocate in 1760, and returned for the Dumfries district of boroughs in 1761. In 1766 he became Lord Justice Clerk, and in 1788 was raised to the Presidency of the Court of Session, and created a Baronet. He died in the following year.

1738. That we had not at last parting formally agreed upon a correspondence, was not at all the cause of my not writeing you before now. This to be sure was my duty at any rate. But really, Willie, I considered of what poor account a letter from a townsman to his friend in the country must be, if town storrys make no part of the entertainment; and was afraid of making as ridiculous a figure as that news writer who promises a fund of entertainment to eager politicians, and in the end disapoints them with a paper filled with advertisements. Were I indeed an assiduous attender on the ladys, my time divided betwixt company and diversions, then perhaps, upon occasion, I might hammer out some story or other suitable to such a correspondence. But sure you never dreamed this was yet my case. By the experience of two winters, I thought you knew that even in a town there is such a thing as retirement, at least such a thing as study and minding one's business; and though I dont care for making any ostentatious comparisons betwixt my own and your circumstances, yet to tell truth, Willie, the principall difference seems to be, that my idle hour is spent in conversation with some mixt, perhaps unknown company, yours in the more agreeable society of those of your own family. Upon the whole, I'm sorry you have made choice of such an intelligencer. However, in obedience to your appointment, I shall from time to time communicate any bit of a story I can pick up, though at the risque of telling it to one who probably beforehand may know it better, which I fancy is the case with Lady B— G—'s case.

This young lady, of more than common sense and beauty, whose only weakness seemed to be rather a too high notion of her own dignity, was some time ago married to Mr. S. late chaplain to her mother, the —, now provided to a small benefice in England of 150£ yearly. Strange storrys are told, to account for this odd accident; which some people solve by the means of one plain matter of fact: that the Prince of Wales, after debauching the lady, procured this father for her child. It is most certain the Lady was a very great favourite of the Prince's, and a closs attendant upon his court; but as to the other part of the story, I think it carrys its own confutation, and I only mention it as the clatter of the Town; or rather of those of his Majesty's faithful subjects, who, fired with

zeal for the service of their royall master, so manfully dare attack the 1738. ringleader of his opposers.²

Some days ago we were pretty much alarmed with an account that the plague was raging in Orkney, which was brought there by some ships lately from Poland. God knows what has been the foundation of such report. Its' certain the magistrates here, and other public officers, have had the matter before them; but as no express has yet been sent off to court, and no further account from the North of any such thing, the story is hushed, and all our apprehension quite over.

You have no doubt heard the history of Miss Baillie's³ suitors. Things, they say, had for some time past gone pretty favourably for Robbie Dundas.⁴ But, alas, poor young gentleman! The arrival of a certain acquaintance of yours, Mr. Willie Lockhart, from his travells, has at once humbled his ambitious expectations. There is no help for it. We, it seems, Willie, are quite out of the play; and no matter now what becomes of the heiress. Foolish girl, into what a snare may she fall, by so wantonly despising the advice of our reverend friend Mr. Braidfoot.⁵ However, Willie, let not this disappointment sitt down too heavily upon us; let us not despise Mr. Braidfoot's means of insinuating ourselves into the good graces of the Ladys as a thing altogether vain. Knowledge of the Greek language is certainly a gentlemanly accomplishment,

² The Prince of Wales was at this time considered as the head of the Opposition.

³ Henrietta Carmichael Baillie, daughter of Sir James Carmichael of Bonnington, by Margaret, daughter and heiress of William Baillie of Lamington. She inherited the estate of Lamington in Lanarkshire in right of her mother.

⁴ Robert Dundas of Arniston, afterwards Lord President of the Court of Session, now a fellow-student of Mr. Millar in Edinburgh. In spite of the formidable rival or rivals here referred to, he succeeded in carrying off the heiress. His eldest daughter, by her, became in her turn heiress of Lamington. She married Captain, afterwards Sir John Lockhart Ross of Balnagoun, a distinguished naval officer, M.P. for Lanarkshire. (See Nos. cxcvii. cc. ccl.) The family of Lamington is now represented by this lady's great-grandson, Mr. Baillie Cochran, M.P. for Bridport.

⁵ A Scottish divine of some eminence, connected by marriage with Mr. Mure, and probably acting as private preceptor to the two young gentlemen.

1738. whatever Miss Baillie may think ; and others in her circumstances may in time come to a sounder way of judging.

Thus I have insensibly drawn out my letter to an immoderate length, for which I really ask your pardon. I conclude with my wishes for success to your studies. I am really pleased to see you so fairly engaged with the Corpus juris. I hope you shall in due time gett the better of that overgrown monster. If you meet with difficultys, I offer the sympathy of a friend. Live by faith upon the promise, that the labour is indeed great but the reward is sure :

τῶν πόρων
Πολλοῖσι ἡμῖν πάντα τὰγαθὰ Θεοί.⁶

I offer my most respectfull complements to the family at Caldwell—
and am, my dear Willie, your sincerest friend and most humble servant,

THOMAS MILLAR.

IV.

MEMORANDA, MORAL AND POLITICAL, BY MR. MURE.

Leyden, 3 Octr. 1740.

1. In judging of any form of Government, there are two things which ought chiefly to come into consideration, next to that ultimate end of all policy, the preservation of the natural rights and liberties of mankind :— viz. What security it promises against party and faction in the legislative body ; and at how small an expense it can be carried on. Our legislative constitution, whatever may be its excellences in other respects, seems to be not a little defective in these two particulars. This seems to proceed from the special nature of its composition, in which there is a sovereign with certain powers and prerogatives allowed to him, yet limited by, and in

⁶ “ Labour is the price of all the blessings the gods bestow.”

an indirect manner accountable to, the other constituent parts of the legislative authority. Such a prince may naturally be supposed to wish the enlarging of his authority, and to have affairs of every kind as much under his direction as possible. In this, his most probable way to succeed is by creating as great a dependance upon him as possible in the Houses of Parliament, by conferring of places, pensions, and gratuities, upon such as he can induce to be of his party and interest. To this purpose, as all offices are at his disposal, it is for his advantage upon every occasion to increase their numbers and enlarge their appointments, even beyond what the necessities of Government may require. By these means he extends his influence over those Members of Parliament, who have power to serve him in another way, by passing large money bills for the service of the government, which comes all into the hands of the crown; and by giving their approbation to any measures that may be taken by him or his council in the management of publick affairs. It is chiefly from this political view that we find in Britain the salaries or payments annexed to every employment, whether civil or military, far exceeding those of any other country; which, besides the evident loss to the publick of so much money that might be spared, is attended with this farther bad effect, of creating division and faction among the representatives in Parliament, and people in power; while one part, biassed and influenced by the enjoyment or expectation of those beneficial posts, support the interest of the Crown, the others, some from a good principle, some from disappointment and opposition to people in favour, act directly contrary to the former, and maintain, what they call, the cause of the People.

2. The management of one man in the character of prime minister will generally be found to be more prejudicial to a country than that of the sovereign himself, even tho' we should suppose that sovereign a man no better, or perhaps somewhat worse, than the minister he might employ; and that for these reasons. The prince who holds the reins of government in his own hands, however bad his administration may be supposed in other respects, if he be but tolerably prudent, will always

1740. take care to have his subjects in such a situation as may enable him to repel any insults or injuries that may be offered him by his neighbours. The interests of king and people, however different they sometimes may be found in domestic affairs, are always closely connected in affairs that relate to any foreign power. A favourite, on the other hand, may often happen to be less interested in the cause either of his master or fellow subjects, and may chuse rather to remain secure in his office, or aggrandise his own private fortune, than at the hazard of either to vindicate the rights or honour of his country; especially when he reflects, that as his children are not to succeed him in his employment, he has only his own life time to provide for, and their security in those riches he has amassed for them.

3. T'is hard to determine, generally speaking, how far a great and wealthy metropolis may be looked upon as preservative of, or dangerous to, the liberties of a free country. This question depends in great measure, I imagine, on the different business the inhabitants of such a city may be engaged in. If their employment and chief profit consists in providing for the demands and administering to the splendour and luxury of a numerous court, and large body of nobility, as is pretty much the case at present with the cities of Paris, Rome, and some others, this may create such an attachment to those people on whom they chiefly depend as to make them less zealous in the defence of their own liberties, or even upon occasion may induce them to join in invading those of their fellow subjects. If, on the other hand, we put the case of a populous city, the seat of rich manufactures, possess't of much shipping, and carrying on an extensive trade with foreign countries, such an one will be found no small security to the general freedom, both as it will suffer most in any attacks upon the laws and constitution, and as it will be more difficult for a designing prince to seduce or impose on such a numerous body, who, by their daily intercourse with each other, come to understand better their real interests, and can with greater unanimity concert such schemes as shall tend most to their common defence. Of this History abounds with examples. Our own affords a very remarkable one. The city of London

has all along been the scourge of wicked ministers, the terror of ill advised Kings, and the guardian of the liberties of Britain. Those discerning Princes, Charles the 5th and Philip 2d, saw sufficiently that the sure way to preserve themselves in their usurped dominion was to reduce the large trading towns in the countries they had enslaved, and to overawe them with forts and citadels ; as was done to Naples, Milan, Antwerp, and Ghent, and was intended, and begun, at Amsterdam, had not the other troubles in that country, and the success of the general revolt, put an end to the dangerous project. 1740.

V.

MEMORANDA AS ABOVE.

Leyden, Nov. 20th, 1740.

1. The equal division that is made of the father's fortune among the children, according to the Dutch law, is one of the principal reasons of that nation's exceeding almost all others in manufactures and trade. Few by that means having so great a fortune as can support them idle, both from the lowness of interest in that country, and the great tax that is laid on the land ; every man is in a manner forced, even against his inclination, to undertake some business or other.

2. Tho' France has of late years pretty much neglected her naval strength, yet one should imagine that it would be no difficult matter for her government, by proper application, to render her no less formidable to some of her neighbours by sea, than she is at present to the generality of Europe by her land force. Every circumstance, both natural and political, seems to point out and favour such an improvement. The administration for a number of years bygone has had a constant attention to the advancement of manufactures and trade, and their success has been in a great measure answerable to the encouragement and protection that

1740. has been granted them. This must of consequence increase the number of seamen, and render them more expert and knowing in their business. Add to this, the multitudes who are employed upon the navigable rivers in France, who after a voyage or two would become quite able sailors, and are at present certainly no worse than our Thames watermen, of whom we make such account. The government has a Register of every individual whose business it is to be employed upon water, through the whole extent of its dominions; and by its absolute authority can command the services of all or any one of them, whenever the exigencies of the state demand it. As to the materials for shipping, they seem to be equally well provided. At the four principal ports, Toulon, Rochefort, Brest, and Dunquerque, there are well furnished magazines and naval stores of every kind. The whole timber of the country, either of the large old forests, the lesser plantations, or the wood that is made use of for enclosing and shelter, is in a manner the property of the crown; so far, at least, that no man in France dares cut down a single tree upon his own Estate without an express permission.¹ From these particulars it would seem that we have no reason to reckon ourselves so secure in our boasted superiority at sea; especially as history and fact inform us that we have never had more than a disputed tenure, whenever our neighbours judged proper fairly to put their cause to the trial.

3. Travelling, considered as a means of improvement, very properly succeeds a man's application to study; not only from its being the fittest period of his life, but also from the nature of the thing itself. By learning, a man discovers the taste, genius, and manners of former times, and by travelling those of the present. Thus he can oppose the one to the other, observe the defects or excellences of each, as dependant on time, place, or circumstance, and in each case make an equal and fair comparison, which will always be found the surest method of forming a right judgment, and of discerning the truth of things.

¹ A similar law still exists, though not probably so rigorous either in its enactments or its execution.

'Tis from not comparing, or from comparing with prejudice, that most of our false judgments proceed. The too high an admiration or contempt either of antient or modern manners, the imaginary pretensions almost every nation forms to itself of excelling its neighbours, the presumptuous conceit we too often show in contemning whatever is contrary to our own customs and practice; and, in short, the whole train of popular opinions which run through every country, and which differ from those of every other, are all owing to the same general cause. Here the usefulness of travelling chiefly shows itself. A man, by spending some part of his life among people of different characters, becomes in a manner a citizen of each community.

VI.

MR. WILL^m ROUET¹ TO MR. MURE.Geneva, Dec^{ber}. 5, 1741.

Dear Glanderston,

Your conduct is unaccountable! What, have you lost all former sentiments of friendship and brotherly kindness? is your mind so sett upon horses, that you have forgott that there is such a creature as man?

¹ William Rouet, first cousin to Mr. Mure, son of his aunt Agnes Mure, and of a clergyman in narrow circumstances, was at this time travelling with John Maxwell, Yr. of Pollock. He became professor of Oriental Languages in the College of Glasgow in 1751, and of Church History in 1752. This office he resigned in 1760, for the purpose of again visiting foreign parts, as travelling governor to Lord Hope, eldest son of the Earl of Hopetoun. On his return in 1765, he purchased the estate of Auchendennan, on the western shore of Lochlomond, the name of which, from his Italian predilections, he changed to Bel Ritiro. He left one daughter, who became the first wife of the late Admiral Smollett of Cameron, but died without issue. The greater part of his estate was inherited by the compiler under his deed of Destination, in 1841. Mr. Rouet was a learned and highly accomplished man, living much both in fashionable and literary society; and some of his letters in this collection are as interesting in matter, as spirited and elegant in style.

1741. or have you made some female friends at Angers, which so possess your soul, as to leave place for none else? But seriously, my dear Willie, it has been with the greatest uneasiness, that I have been expecting to hear from you these six weeks bypast. I wrote you a long letter from Paris, immediately upon my receiving our Knight's² Letter desiring us to go to Geneva; in this I gave you all my news and intentions, together with my address at Geneva. I expected (after having heard from you) to give you a short description of the way we spend our time here, so that, if it be any way engaging, you may be tempted to come this length and visit your Mother Church, where you might suck in some wholesome nourishment, which may prove an antidote to the pernicious food you have been using yourself with, for these some months past. But by this time, fearing that either my letter to you has miscarried, or that laziness has so far got the better of you, as to prevent your writing to Angers, I have taken this opportunity, in order that I might have some small influence with you in settling the route you propose upon your quitting Angers. I shall run over a few advantages which this place in my opinion has above any place I have as yet ever seen, and especially in respect to those reasonable advantages which I know well will have most weight with you.

In the first place, then, the situation is certainly the very finest and most agreeable of any you ever saw, having prospects of the greatest beauty and variety, that perhaps any place of Europe cannot boast the like. Then its being situated between these three powerfull States, viz. France, Savoy, and Swisse, has given the people a kind of mixed character; viz. the French sprightliness and politeness, mollify'd and corrected with the gravity and judgement of its other neighbours; in short, it is a small Republick, in which the love of liberty and Amor Patriæ are to be found, perhaps as strong as ever were to be found in an Athens or a Rome. The people are naturally industrious and sober, and almost all of them, when unemploy'd with business, are constantly engaged in reading History or the Belles Lettres; the commonest of them are acquainted perfectly with our English history, modern history of Germany, French history and poets, &c.

² Sir John Maxwell of Pollock.

This is the character of the generality of their citizens, who are merchants ; 1741. but besides these you have vast numbers of families who are prodigiously rich, who live upon their rents, come to spend the winter at Geneva, and the summer at their country houses. Most of all these are polite well-behaved gentlemen, generally have travelled and seen the world, and therefore most agreeable companions. Besides these two characters, there is a third, which consists of the Ministers and Professors, who surely must be allowed, by all who know them, to make a society truly worthy and learned. Almost all these have been in England for part of their education, and consequently understand our language, at least so well as to be quite acquainted with our best English books. These are prodigiously fond of all Englishmen, especially those of sense and judgement, and consequently are fond of an introduction to any of them.—As for the fair sex, which you will have some regard to, the girls here are generally but tolerably handsome, but of extreme good sense and spirits ; very entertaining and polite, and particularly fond of English above all other Countrys. Now, as to your getting acquainted with them, I shall show you how in a week's time you may have as many acquaintances as you please. In the first place, the daughter of the house where we stay has a society once a week, where I shall get you invited to the company of six of the greatest beauties in town. Besides, we have my Lady Baltimore, who stays here, and has a society every week in her house. This you are entituled to go to, and consequently priviledged to visit all the ladies of that society. Besides these, our English acquaintances have some of them been here three or four years, and thereby intimate in many families, who can carry you there and be well received. So much for ladies. As for men, I am boarded in a Minister's house, one of the most agreeable polite sensible men I ever saw in my life ; he has shown me such markes of kindness and civility as I shall never forget. He has introduced me to a company of Professors, Ministers, and others of the town, who meet once a week, where you may be very agreeably entertained, and by this make acquaintance with all the members, who are to be look'd upon as amongst the ablest in Europe.—Besides these reasons, I shall add another: you may lodge for a mere trifle, for we have been oblig'd to have a whole

1741. lodging, (it not being the custom here to have rooms), in which you shall have a good room with all necessaries. Your board is at most 5£ per month, dinner, and supper; as for firing, we have already laid in as much as will serve us all winter; there are no expenses in your rooms, it not being at all the custom to drink wine there, and never to give suppers. You can go in what dress you please, no fine cloaths being worn, but allwise genteel. We are very happy in having very agreeable countrymen here, whose company we seldom frequent, unless it be now and then an hour after supper.—But now, my dear Willie, I must add, that unless you can propose to stay three months with us, it is really not worth your while, because the people here are a little shy at first, till they have some notion of the character of the person; so that every stranger at first arriving has not quite the same easiness of making acquaintances as in France; but when they are once made, I'm sure you will find them as agreeable.—Besides what I have said, I might add, that here you have all exercises in perfection, such as riding, fencing, dancing, &c. This I know by seeing some of our countrymen here, who have made surprizing proficiency in all these.—I shall close up all with this my scheme, that you should come here against the month of Feby. stay here till the first of May, then we will make the tour of the lake with you, go a little into Switzerland, and then you will fall down the Rhine, and so home.

As for the tour to the South of France, you will find, I fancy, that neither the season of the year will permit you, and besides you will find it is both expensive and but small profit to go from town to town.—Besides, who knows but a certain person³ may go to Abraham's bosom by that time, and then, like the great Hannibal, you may cross the Alps. If you come to Lyons, go to L'Ecu de France; it is the best house ever an Englishman was in; tell him I recommended you to his house, and he will still be more civil; we stayed there ten days; for 3 Liv. a day, if you dined in

³ It does not appear who is here referred to. An ingenious friend of the Editor suggests it may have been the "Old Pretender," then living at Rome, where he was acknowledged as King James III. Young Englishmen, of Whig families, looking forward to advancement in political life, are said to have been shy of visiting Rome at that period.

public, and the double if in your rooms. I expect a long letter by 1741.
first post, acquainting me with all your motions.

I am your's, for ever,

W. ROUET.

Address for me, chez Mon^r Augustin Girod,
Banquier, à Genève.

A Monsr.

Monsieur Mure,
chez Monsieur Pigneroll,
dans L'Academie,
A Angers,
Par Paris.

VII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Geneva, Dec^r 7, 1741.

My dearest Willie,

I received your's by last post, acquainting me of your finall resolutions concerning the way you are to spend the remainder of your time abroad. Although I must confess that you are infinitely a better judge in that than I, or indeed anybody else can be, yet I could have wished that you had communicated your designs to a friend before they were so near being putt into execution; it not being altogether impossible, but that you might find as many reall advantages elsewhere as at Tours. I have writt you a long letter by last post, before I had received yours'. In it (not suspecting that your resolutions were so far formed) I gave you a short and imperfect account of this place. Inclination would again lead me to enlarge a little further on the subject; if possibly I might have any weight with you in altering your

1741. intended scheme. Consider, my dr. Willie, that you placed me exactly in the same situation as our friend P^{ck} Boyle¹ did place us by his last letter to us in Holland. You no doubt have already gott such full and perfect descriptions of Tours, and the advantages there to be gott, as have been sufficient to determine you to make that the place of your residence. I only wish you may find it answer expectation; but the knowledge that I have of your character and temper makes me think, that constant gayeties from morning to night for some months together will soon cloy you, and nature will often recur and demand some of the rationall food which it was formerly us'd with. I can't help thinking that a life which has more variety in it is still more agreeable; a life in which a man may, every hour he pleases, have the agreeable conversation of men of letters, and men who have seen the world, and know mankind; and then the harshness and severity of this way of life, mollified and softened by the agreeable and entertaining company of the fair, whose minds and bodies both you have more intercourse with than their packs of cards. — In short, my dear Willie, here a man may assume any character he pleases; be a man of the world or a philosopher, converse with the dead or the living, be frolicsome and gay, or sober and sad; be quite a woman's man, or a woman hater, or still, which is best, may keep the just medium betwixt the two. Add to these, that you are just upon the confines of severall different states, each of which have their different form of government, which a man by conversation may find out here, and with a little time and small expense see in practice. Think and consider the being at the foot of the famous Alps! think on the tour round this lake, to visit and behold these various naturall curiosities

¹ The Honourable Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, brother of the Earl of Glasgow, afterwards married to Agnes, sister of Mr. Mure. This lady died without family in 1758. By his second wife, Miss Elizabeth Dunlop, her first cousin, Mr. Boyle was father, among other issue, of the Right Honourable David Boyle, Lord Justice-General of Scotland.

which were but half perceived by Addison; and which may be accomplished for 3*£* sterl. ! Add to this, that there are two of the Swiss nobility at our pension, with whom we are very intimate, who will either make the tour of Swisserland alongst with us; or give us such letters as will make it profitable and agreeable. 1741.

In short, after all, my scheme is this:—Since you have laid aside thoughts of making the tour of France, if you should immediately leave Angers, putt up two suits of cloaths, twelve suit of linnings, and hire a machine to Chalons upon the Soane; this you can go in five days at most, and it will not cost you very dear. At Chalons you have a boat, just like a large Dutch scout, which goes four times every week to Lyons; in this you have a place for 8 French livres. In one day and a half you come to Lyons, and from thence every week you may have seat in a coach to Geneva for 1 Lewis and $\frac{1}{2}$; which will bring you here in three days and a half, and carry the baggage I mentioned alongst with you; and when once you are here, I shall engage you shall never repent your change. Your Professor, T. Dundass, who came from Paris to Geneva with us, is gone to Naples, and is to be back here the beginning of March, and will take that rout with us, and fall down the Rhine with you, and to London against the end of March, so that you will have two months of the Parlt. in this scheme likewise. You see, my dear Willie, how officious I have been in proposing schemes, and urging them to you, who are much better qualified every way to discern what is your own interest; yet I hope you will pardon me when I tell you that my reason for breaking through these rules of good manners is, that I may have the pleasure once more of your company, and in a way which I am convinced will be of service to yourself. If you have heard lately from Scotland, let me hear your news, for I have not heard from any one these three months.

Yours, for ever,

W. ROUET.

1741. I have only to add further, that from the town of Basle, (which you see is no great distance from us,) all the way down the Rhine, you have constantly boats agoing, so that you can never be at a loss to find passage when you go out to see any particular place; the price is extravagantly small, and the places that are to be seen are infinitely preferable to what you could have seen in the south of France; and you will find this journey in all will not cost you so much as the one you intended, from the difference of travelling by water and going in a post-chaise.

A Monsr.

Monsr. Mure,

Gentilhomme Anglois,

chez Mons Figneroll,

dans L'Academie,

Par Paris.

Angers.

VIII.

JOHN MAXWELL,¹ ESQ. (AFTERWARDS SIR JOHN) OF POLLOCK,
TO MR. MURE.

Geneva, Feby. 22, 1742.

My Dear Mure,

I can't altogether excuse myself for not troubling you with a letter much sooner. When we parted, I dont remember who it was agreed should first break the ice; however, these are but silly punctilios among

¹ Eldest son of Sir John Maxwell of Pollock, — succeeded his father as third Bart. in 1753 — and died in 1758. This gentleman built the present Mansion-house of Pollock, the interior arrangement and decoration of which savour of his Italian travels described in his next letter; exhibiting more both of taste and judgment than most other Scottish country residences of the period.

friends. You know I am not a very ready penman, and have (as you used 1742. sometimes to be alledging) but a very indifferent epistolary style. This made me not so fond of writing to such a good judge as yourself. But tho' these jokes used to pass between us when we were together, yet I'm persuaded you'll receive my poor letter as a friend. I was always convinced of your affection towards me,—and indeed this letter confirms me in my opinion. Honest Willie, I wish heartily I more deserved your esteem, which I would have no fears about, could I but follow your good instructions. So far am I from taking your freeness with me amiss (as I hope you did not think I was so silly and unreasonable), that it gives me great pleasure to think you interest yourself so much in my behalf. A true friend is always the plainest. I'm sorry we can't have the pleasure of seeing you in this part of the world, but I hope we shall meet together in Old Scotland to both our satisfactions. I shall always think myself happy in having you for a friend and adviser. I think your *maladie de País* is a very rational disease in the present situation of affairs, for any one that has the interest of his country at heart; but what can one that is in a private station contribute to the good of it at present? It is but like seeing his friend struggling with a dangerous disease, when at the same time it is not in his power to give him the least assistance. In that case, I don't know but I'd as soon choose to be at a distance.

You know I was never much endued with the art of thinking;—however, I begin now to consider what part I'm to act in life when I return home. As I would abhor lying a dead weight, or rather a country leard, upon my country, I would choose some more active life; and yet I'm very sensible that I'm not at all cut out for any Publick business. The Law Scheme, as you may easily believe, is now entirely blown up, which I always looked upon as a little flash and away again, for one that had not a greater turn that way, and a greater reach of thought, than me; I know you condemn me, but I can't help thinking so. Suppose that, against next Elections, I had any chance of getting in to be Member of Parliament, without much

1742. drinking or pothering ; as I would assure them honestly I had nothing but the interest of my country at heart, and that I should always at least give my vote well, if my judgement did not mislead me ; for no other thing should ; would you not in this case advise me, when I go home, to turn my thoughts and studies a little upon the trade and interest of the nation, and endeavour to serve my country in that way ? Tho' that should fail, may not one contribute to the happiness of mankind in a private station, and live with as great satisfaction to himself and his friends in private as in publick life ?

In the meantime, I ought and shall make it my business to answer the true end of my coming abroad, by endeavouring to improve myself in usefull knowledge and politeness. I now begin sorely to repent the long time I have so much trifled away, when you, by employing it all this while as you ought, have got so far the start of most of your companions. I am very sensible how much it would be for my advantage to keep more the company of strangers than I do, and tho' I had been of a quite different way of thinking, your reasoning would have convinced me. The men in this town are of two sorts, either grave old Philosophers or young fopish *Petits Maitres*, apes of the French ; for the Old ones, they meet in one another's houses in clubs, or what they call *Sociétés*, and go by the name of the "*Société des beaux esprits*," of which your friend Mr. Will^m.¹ has the honour to be a member. It requires a good fund both of French and knowledge to keep up conversation with them, and they must be well informed of a man's character by some of the members before they admit him ; so you see I have no pretensions. For the other sort, I despise them. It is not so easy either to get into the Lady's company here ; all the people in this place are link'd together in these kind of *Sociétés*. I can easily clear the girls of the strangers not being so well received ; but it is these *Petits Maitres* who are of their Clubs, that (I cant tell whether it is that they are conscious of their own

¹ Mr. W. Rouet.

worthlessness) are jealous of the strangers, and hinder their being introduced for fear of losing their ground.

However, there are some of the English who have, by a long stay here, contracted acquaintance in some of the best familys, to whom I have been obliged that way. We have one way of getting into company without being obliged to any of the Genevois. There is an English lady, one Lady Baltimore, who has been here now about a year, and very well received among the town's people; she has an assembly every Sunday evening, after sermons, where most of the strangers go regularly, and a good many ladys of the place. You may play at cards or not as you will, come in and go out when you please, and are under no manner of restraint. As to keeping company with my countrymen, I am quite sensible it is wrong to do it too much; but the case is not the same here as at Leyden. We have no meetings in carousing over a bottle; it is but seldom that we visit one another, and then it is only to drink a dish of tea. I own there are some of my countrymen here just now that spend there time in an indifferent enough way; and I must say for myself, that, unless it was in the time of the skating, when my head was a little turned, I have not kept much company with them. But there are others whom I think it rather my happiness to be acquaint with, and I dare say you would not be against cultivating an acquaintance with people that are otherwise valuable only because they were countrymen.

As to my motions, I can't well inform you, not knowing them myself yet. I have too long tryed your patience already, and therefore must referr you to another letter for these and many other pretty strong things I would say. If this letter be not worth the postage, you have yourself and not me to blame for it.—Dear Willy, I am sincerely yours,

JOHN MAXWELL.

A Monsieur

Mons. Mure,

Chez Mons. Aeneas Macdonald,³

Banquier, Dans la Rue Aubrie Bouchy,
a Paris.

³ This gentleman, brother of Macdonald of Kinloch Moidart, accompanied the Pretender from France, and landed with him on the Highland coast in 1745.—Home, Hist. of Rebell. p. 40.

IX.

GILBERT ELLIOT, ESQ. (AFTERWARDS SIR GILBERT) OF MINTO,¹ TO
MR. MURE.

Edinburgh, June, [1742.]

Dr. Mure,

Before I received your letter, I had resolved to inform you by this post of my being arrived in Scotland. I left London without any sort of premeditation, took post-horses, and so found myself in Edinburgh, before I had time to reflect that my travels were at an end. Next morning I provided myself in a huge cocked hat, Parliament House gown, and a bob-wig of a very formal cut, and so made my appearance at the barr. I continue to be the strangest fellow in the world: I believe nobody can make anything of me; I yawn all the morning at the fore bar, and after dinner I submit myself with great patience to the critical

¹ This young "avocat malgré lui," who afterwards attained considerable eminence as a senator and a statesman, was the eldest son of Sir Gilbert Elliot of Minto, Lord Justice Clerk. He sat in Parliament for Selkirkshire, from 1754 till 1765, and for Roxburghshire from the latter year up to 1777, the year of his death. During this period, he filled with credit various important offices in the Government. He was appointed Lord of the Admiralty in 1756; Treasurer of the Chambers in 1762; Keeper of the Signet in 1767; and Treasurer of the Navy in 1770. His eloquence and talents are frequent subject of commendation in the memoirs and histories of the day, even with writers the most opposed to him in politics. Dugald Stewart, in a passage of his *Philosophy of the Human Mind*, describes him as "uniting, to his other well-known talents and accomplishments, a taste "for abstract disquisition, which rarely occurs in men of the world, accompanied with "that soundness and temperance of judgment, which in such researches are so essentially "necessary to guard the mind against the illusions engendered by its own subtlety." He also displayed facility and taste in poetical composition.

The correspondence now commenced was maintained through the remainder of their lives. Sir Gilbert and David Hume, as they were among the earliest, are described by Mr. Mure, at a late period of his life, as his two best friends. All three died within a year of each other; the Baron in March, and Hume in July, 1776; Sir Gilbert, in January, 1777. Sir Gilbert succeeded to the baronetcy in 1766. He was father of the first Lord Minto, and grandfather of the present Earl.

observation of aunts, cousins, and grandmothers. Sometimes I dress like 1742. a fop, and sometimes like a man of business. I don't avoid going to taverns, and yet I don't get drunk. I love the town tolerably well; there is one fine street, and the houses are extremely high. The gentry are a very sensible set of people, and some of them, in their youth, seem to have known the world; but, by being too long in a place, their notions are contracted and their faces are become solemn. The Faculty of Advocates is a very learned and very worthy body. As for the ladys, they are unexceptionable, innocent, beautiful, and of an easy conversation. The staple vices of the place are censoriousness and hypocrisy. Pray come to town, that I may give a loose to my words and ideas: the mask as yet sits but awkwardly upon me. There is here no allowance for levity, none for dissipation. I am not a bit surprized I do not find here that unconstrained noble way of thinking and talking which one every day meets with among young fellows of plentiful fortunes and good spirits, who are constantly moving in a more enlarged circle of company. Whim and heroism must gradually subside, and the high schemes of youth give place to the gainful arts of a narrower situation. By Jove, I write like a Philosopher. Nature never meant me for a lawyer: I have neither the sorts of parts, memory, or application; and yet I'm not discouraged. The same powerful habit that makes men tumblers and rope-dancers may very probably mould me into a very lawyer. There's a period for you, Willy. If it be in my power, I shall see you in the country; but to make any stay I can't propose. My reasons I'll tell you when you come to town; my Lord Provost is expected to-morrow with all his family. Jack Stuart writes me that poor Ker is very miserable at London; tir'd of Renala and Fox hall, the days too long for routs. I have as yet touched no money, and I have pleaded no causes. Come to town and you shall hear me speak, and see me get drunk for the first time. My service to your mother and the young ladys.

D^r. Glanderston,² adieu,

G. E.

² Glanderston was an old estate, and frequent residence of the Caldwell family about this period. Hence occasionally preferred to Caldwell as the title of the proprietor.

X.

MR. DAVID HUME TO MR. MURE.

Sept^r. 10, [1742.]

I made a pen, dipt it in ink, and set myself down in a posture of writing, before I had thought of my subject, or made provision of one single thought by which I might entertain you. I trusted to my better genius, that he wou'd supply me in a case of such urgent necessity : but having thrice scratcht my head, and thrice bit my nails, nothing presented itself, and I threw away my pen in great indignation. O ! thou instrument of dulness, says I, doest thou desert me in my greatest necessity ; and being thyself so false a friend, hast thou a secret repugnance at expressing my friendship to the faithful Mure, who knows thee too well ever to trust to thy caprices, and who never takes thee in his hand without reluctance. While I, miserable wretch that I am, have put my chief confidence in thee ; and relinquishing the sword, the gown, the cassock, and the toilette, have trusted to thee alone for my fortune and my fame. Begone ! Avaunt ! Return to the goose from whence thou camest. With her thou wast of some use, while thou conveyedst her thro' the etherial regions. And why, alas ! when pluckt from her wing, and put into my hand, doest thou not recognise some similitude betwixt it and thy native soil, and render me the same service, in aiding the flights of my heavy imagination.

Thus accus'd, the pen erected itself upon its point, plac'd itself betwixt my fingers and my thumb, and mov'd itself to and fro upon this paper, to inform you of the story, complain to you of my injustice, and desire your good offices to the reconciling such antient friends.

But, not to speak nonsense any longer (by which however I am glad I have already fill'd a page of paper), I arriv'd here about three weeks ago : am in good health, and very deeply immerst in books and study.

Tell your sister Miss Betty (after having made her my compliments) 1742. that I am as grave as she imagines a Philosopher shou'd be: laugh only once a fortnight: sigh tenderly once a week: but look sullen every moment. In short, none of Ovid's metamorphoses ever show'd so absolute a change from a human creature into a beast; I mean from a gallant into a philosopher.

I doubt not but you see my Lord Glasgow very often; and therefore I shall suppose when I write to one, I pay my respects to both. At least, I hope he will so far indulge my laziness. *Hanc veniam petimusque damusque vicissim.*

Did you receive my letter from Glasgow? I hope it did not displease you. What are your resolutions with regard to that affair.

Remember me to your sister Miss Nancy, to Miss Dunlop,¹ and to Mr. Leechman. Tell your mother, or sisters, or whoever is most concern'd about the matter, that their cousin John Steuart is in England, and, as tis believ'd, will return with a great fortune.

I say not a word of Mr. Hutcheson,² for fear you shou'd think I intend to run the whole circle of my west country acquaintance, and to make you a bearer of a great many formal compliments. But I remember you all very kindly, and desire to be remember'd by you, and to be spoke of sometimes,—and to be wrote to.

DAVID HUME.

William Mure of Caldwell, Esq.

at Caldwell,

To the care of the Postmaster at Beith,

by Edinburgh.

¹ See Note to No. VII.

² See No. XVIII.

XI.

JOHN MAXWELL, ESQ. YR. OF POLLOCK, TO MR. MURE.

Naples, Nov^r. 14, 1742.

My dear Mure,

I shan't trouble you with apologies for not writing you more regularly, as the thing would naturally require; I hope you'll be so charitable as to impute it rather to a want of something to say than to a want of regard to one of my best friends. There's no doubt Italy affords subjects enough for letters, but there are few things that I could inform you of but what you either have read of or may find described to much better purpose, in all the books of travels, than I can ever pretend to. I shall endeavour, then, to give you some account of a little jant we took, which, tho' it be a tour not ordinarily taken, is not a bit the less curious. You must know, then, that stopping for a month or so at Viterbo, partly not venturing to go forward to Rome for fear of the bad air, and partly upon account of the famous mineral waters there, which I used for these carbuncles on my face, and having a little idle time upon our hands, we took a trip into Tuscany again, upon horseback. Our chief design was to see the Lake Thrasimene, where was that famous battle betwixt the Romans and Hannibal; yet we found a great many things besides very well worth our pains. But before I leave Viterbo, I must mention some of the most remarkable things thereabouts. First, there is a most surprising fountain of boiling water, which is not mentioned, so far as I can understand, by any of the ancient authors, not even by any of the voyage writers. This well is more than forty feet in diameter. It would be endless to tell you the superstitious notions that the priests instill into the people with regard to it: that it is bottomless, and has a communication with hell—upon which they build a thousand nonsensical stories and miracles wrought by the Virgin Mary. I shall only tell you, that to convince, if possible, these superstitious creatures of their error, as well

as satisfy ourselves as to the depth of it, we got a great quantity of cord 1742. and a cannon ball fixed at the end of it, on purpose to measure it, and found it at the deepest not above thirty or forty yards deep. But to show you what a power the priests have over the consciences of men in this country, tho' there was a crowd of people about us, not one of them dared to believe his own eyes. At a very little distance from this well we see the remains of the Via Cassia. I traced it out for upwards of three miles; in one place it is quite entire. It is of the same breadth and exactly made like the Via Appia, of large blue stones, the least of them a foot or a foot and a half over; they ly like wedges in the ground, being all brought to a point on the undermost side. About five miles from Viterbo we made a discovery of an old Etruscan town called Ferentum, now quite deserted, and grown over with bushes and brambles. It agrees exactly with Livy's description of it as to the situation; there are still to be seen the ruins of temples, the pavement of the streets in some places, and about twenty arches of an amphitheatre.

Now for our jant; we set out six in company, two English gentlemen, Williamson of Cardrona and his Governor, Mr. Rouet, and your humble servant. At Monte Fiascone (which is still upon the post road) we saw the monument of the German Bishop spoke of by Mysson in his Travells. However, in case you may not have heard the story, you shall have it, as far as I remember. This Bishop, travelling to Rome, sent forward his servant, (as his custom always was,) a post or so before him, to taste the wine in all the publick houses he passed, and where he found it good he ordered him to write *Est* above the door, some German word probably signifying good,¹ for the Bishop, being burnt up with zeal, had frequent occasion to moisten the clay. The servant, accordingly, coming here, and finding the wine excellent, writt *Est* three times upon the door. In short, the good Bishop, dealing a little too freely with it, left his corps here, and is buried in one of the churches, with this inscription, writt by his servant: "*Est, Est, Est; propter nimium Est, Dominus meus—*

¹ A rather strange mistake for one who was evidently something of a scholar. The word is simply the Latin "*Est*," signifying "It is (here)," viz. good wine.

1742. mortuus Est." From here we turned off to Orvietto, formerly called Urbs Vetus, a place that in these days has been almost impregnable. It is situated upon the top of a round hill, and instead of having walls built round it, they have only assisted Nature a little by slicing down the rock perpendicularly upon all sides of it. The want of water seems to have been the only impediment this place could have laboured under with regard to its strength; to prevent which the Gentiles, as this degenerate race now call them, have shown their usual grandeur in undertakings that to us now seem almost impracticable, by digging a prodigious large pit, to an immense depth, out of the solid rock, till at length they have come upon a levell with a river that runs past. There is a pretty strange phenomenon to be observed here, that the water when you come at it is not above three foot deep; yet take out of it what quantity you please, it never sensibly diminishes; and tho' you take none of the water out for years together, it stands always at the same height; yet there are no marks of a spring. This well has a double staircase, such a one as we saw, I remember, in a convent at Tours,² and the descent is so easy that mules can go up and down. The next day's journey was remarkable for nothing but our scrambling up and down mountains like to break our necks; but the day after we came in upon the lake Thrasimene, which opens itself to us all at once. Here we staid and consulted Livy, whose description of the field of battle agreed exactly well with this place; as we thought, we figured out to ourselves the position of the two armys, and in short the whole action; and were highly pleased upon having found out the place of ourselves, without being shown it; tho' every body in the country agrees that it was at the other end of the lake. However, upon comparing our field with what Livy says, I'm apt to think our conjecture was not altogether amiss, for it hits very well, all to one article. Livy says—"Ubi maxime montes Cortonienses Trasimenus subit;"—Now this is the place, of all the lake, where the mountains rise most perpendicularly above it; but the difficulty is, whether all that range

² At Amboise, probably, near Tours, where there is a tower with a precisely similar stair, as the Editor, who has seen both, can testify.

of hills can be called *Montes Cortonienses*, for this is fifteen miles from Cortona; every other circumstance agrees with Livy to a hair. To end this important controversie, the most convincing arguments are: first, a plain on the other side, that still retains the name of *Vallis Prælii*, and then a village called *Ossaria*, where they say they buried their slain. I leave it to the learned to determine. I was sorry I could not get full satisfaction about it. We had the greatest pleasure imaginable in riding along the side of the lake to Cortona. It's impossible to have an idea of a country so fertile without seeing it; at least, it is impossible for me to express it. We were quite shaded from the sun by the clustres of grapes which hung from tree to tree, &c. O, for a poetical genius! Cortona stands upon the side of a steep hill, and has the most commanding view I ever saw, far superior to that of Windsor or St. Germans, &c. either for extent or for richness of the country. The people here are of a quite different genius from the rest of the Italians; they don't spend their time in courting one another's wives, and trifling gallantrys. A spirit of sense and learning seems to prevail among them. This is mostly, if not altogether, owing to the Marquis Venuti, who, with some other gentlemen of learning like himself, set on foot, about thirteen or fourteen years ago, the *Academia Etrusca*, which is held here. This Academy or Society is for researches into the Roman and Greek Antiquitys,³ and is now become pretty famous for their dissertations they have publish'd. It consists of about one hundred members, when they are all present, about thirty of whom are gentlemen of this town. They meet once a month, when some one or other of them has a discourse, which if lik'd is published. We were so lucky as to be present at one of their meetings. I heard a discourse read, which was made by this Marquis's brother, (who is secretary to the Academy at Bourdeaux,) and was not properly intended for this academy, but was read by way of compliment to his brother. It was an inquiry into how many times the temple of Janus was shut; it was nothing very curious in itself—only a collection of dry facts, (as our minister says,) how often the Romans were in peace. They

³ More properly into the native Etruscan antiquities.

1742. have a very fine collection of antiquitys and naturall curiositys. We met with unspeakable civilitys from a great many here, particularly from the Marquis Venuti and a relation of his, a knight of St. Stephen, a hearty honest fellow, who, as he told us himself, had been a priest, and, for giving a woman a kiss in publick, was going to be severely prosecute by the Bishop, to prevent which he got himself made a knight of that order, which put him out of the Bishop's jurisdiction. We were so well used here that we stay'd three days. The next place we came to was Monte Pulciano, where we saw a collection of ancient Hetruscan vases, basso relievos, &c. and drunk a chirping cup of their wine, which is famous over all Italy. From Monte Pulciano we went to Clusium, where Porsenna was king. We had a letter from Cortona to a gentleman here, who went about with us, and show'd us everything that was to be seen. It has been anciently a very large town, but now almost quite desolate. We saw a great many statues or pieces of old statues, bas reliefs, and inscriptions, one of which was in honour of Sylla. The most remarkable thing here is the labirinth under ground, entering at one end of the old city, and going quite through to the other, with several cross roads cut in it. People are divided as to the use that it has been designed for: it is commonly reckoned to have been a burial place for their kings. From Clusium back to Viterbo we met with nothing worth notice. This was a very agreeable jant, though we bought it pretty dear. I would not advise anybody to travel that road that can't put up with sleeping in their greatcoat and boots, upon a chair or upon the floor; you may judge what our entertainment was. Mr. Rouet and I stay'd a day or two at Viterbo after our return, and let the rest of our company on to Rome before us. We stopt a very short time at Rome, so as to get an overly view of some of the most remarkable things, viz. the Capitol, Pantheon, St. Paul's, &c. and so came on here to Naples before the weather should break. We have been here now near a month, and have seen all that is to be seen. We only wait the Opera, which should have begun before this time, but was delay'd upon account of the Infanta's death, which happened about ten days ago. There was an accident happened at her funeral which afforded much speculation to the superstitious. A mausoleum, which

was erected in the midst of the church, and very finely adorned, as you 1742. may believe, took fire, from one of the wax candles being carelessly placed, in the midst of the service, and was quite destroyed. The whole church run a risk of being burnt; however, they continued the service, as mass is never stopt on any account, tho' I believe the priests were ready to b—— themselves. We went to court next day, where, instead of meeting with an air of sadness, all was gay, and everybody dress'd out in their finest cloaths. The reason of this was, that, as the Infanta was under the age of sinning, she must consequently be received among the number of angels, without touching at Purgatory. They are strongly at work just now, Sunday and Saturday, about their fortifications and batterys towards the sea, for fear of another visit from our fleet. Last week, Mr. Allen, the English Consul here, had a letter from Admiral Mathews, telling that he was well informed that all the Neapolitan troops had not been recal'd, but that there was two regiments of horse (naming them,) still left with the Spaniards, and desiring a direct answer from Court whether it was so—that they should be recal'd forthwith, otherwise he'd be obliged to renew his visit. The King was all condescension, and sent him for answer that there was nothing he apprehended more than the English fleet again at Naples as enemies, and that, if the Admiral would not be convinced, he might send one of his officers to review his troops. Mr. Dundass is here with us in the same house, in pretty good health, and in as high spirits as ever. My paper failing, I must subscribe myself

Your ever faithfull friend and humble servant,

JOHN MAXWELL.

Willm. Mure of Caldwell, Esq.
at Caldwell,

To the care of the Postmaster of
Glasgow.

North Brittain,
via di Roma, Parigi, e Londra.

XII.

MR. DAVID HUME TO MR. MURE.

Nov. 14, [1742.]¹

I am surpriz'd you shou'd find fault with my letter.² For my part, I esteem it the best I ever wrote. There is neither barbarism, solecism, æquivoque, redundancy, nor transgression of one single rule of grammar or rhetoric thro' the whole. The words were chosen with an exact propriety to the sense, and the sense was full of masculine strength and energy. In short, it comes up fully to the Duke of Buckingham's description of fine writing: exact propriety of words and thought. This is more than what can be said of most compositions. But I shall not be redundant in the praise of brevity, tho' much might be said on that subject. To conclude all, I shall venture to affirm, that my last letter will be equal in bulk to all the orations you shall deliver during the two first sessions of Parliament. For let all the letters of my epistle be regularly divided, they will be found equivalent to a dozen of *No's* and as many *Ay's*. There will be found a *No* for the Triennial Bill, for the Pension Bill, for the Bill about regulating Elections, for the Bill of Pains and Penalties against Lord Oxford, &c. There will also be found an *Ay* for the Standing Army, for Votes of Credit, for the Approbation of Treaties, &c. As to the last *No* I mention'd with regard to Lord Oxford, I beg it of you as a particular favour. For having published to all Britain my sentiments on that affair, it will be thought by all Britain, that I have no influence on you, if your sentiments be not conformable to mine.

¹ The date of the year is wanting, but must have been as here conjecturally supplied. The letter must have been written in anticipation of Mr. Mure's election for Renfrewshire as certain; although it did not take place for some weeks afterwards.

² Probably that of date Sept. 10, No. x.

Besides, as you are my disciple in religion³ and morals, why shou'd you 1742. not be so in politics? I entreat you to get the Bill about Witches repeal'd, and to move for some new Bill to secure the Christian Religion, by burning Deists, Socinians, Moralists, and Hutchinsonians.

I shall be in town about Christmas, where, if I find not Lord Glasgow, I shall come down early in the spring to the borders of the Atlantic Ocean, and rejoice the Tritons and Sea-gods with the prospect of Kelburn in a blaze. For I find that is the only way to unnestle his Lordship. But I intend to use the freedom of writing to himself on this subject, if you will tell me how to direct to him. In the mean time, do you make use of all your eloquence and argument to that purpose.

Make my humble compliments to the ladies, and tell them I shou'd endeavour to satisfy them, if they wou'd name the subject of the essay they desire. For my part, I know not a better subject than themselves; if it were not, that being accus'd of being unintelligible in some of my writings, I shou'd be extremely in danger of falling into that fault, when I should treat of a subject so little to be understood as Women. I wou'd, therefore, rather have them assign me the Deiform Fund of the Soul, the passive Unions of Nothing with Nothing, or any other of those mystical points, which I would endeavour to clear up, and render perspicuous to the meanest readers.

Allow not Miss Dunlop to forget, that she has a humble servant, who has the misfortune to be divided from her by the whole breadth of this Island. I know she never forgets her friends; but as I dare not pretend to that relation upon so short an acquaintance, I must be beholden to your good offices for preserving me in her memory; because I suspect mightily that she is apt to forget and overlook those who can aspire no higher than the relation I first mention'd.

This I think is enough in all conscience, I see you are tir'd with my long letter, and begin to yawn. What! can nothing satisfy you, and

³ This, like some other passages of Hume's letters in the sequel, containing similar reflections on the religious principles of his friends or contemporaries, must be taken as jest or sarcasm. There is no trace, in Mr. Mure's correspondence or habits, of any actual participation in the historian's sceptical opinions.

1742. must you grumble at every thing. I hope this is a good prognostic of your being a patriot.

William Mure of Caldwell, Esq.
at Caldwell,
To the care of the Postmaster at Beith,
by Edinburgh.

XIII.

"PORTERFIELD OF THAT ILK,"¹ TO MR. MURE.

Duchall, Nov^r. 22, 1742.

Dear Sir,

Forgive me for the familiar manner in which I acost you. The value I have for the family you represent, and the particular obligations I am under to your worthy father, my constant friend, would be a challenge to me, if I had not all sentiments of regard for you, and were not zealous to serve you.

I cannot possibly be at Glasgow the morrow in suche bad weather, but you must correspond with me by letters, since I will be anxious to know what resolution your friends come to; which pray do by Pasley post, to the Craigends. If Sir John or any of your friends were to meett at Pasley, I shall come in a chaise; or, if I can be of any use to you, shall come to Pollock.

I have nothing to write to our friend Sir John,² save what I am to say to you. I indeed used the freedome to rattle him off for saying in

¹ Alexander Porterfield, Esq. of Porterfield and Duchal. This gentleman died within a few months after the date of the present letter, May 11, 1743. He married Lady Catherine Boyd, daughter of William, first Earl of Kilmarnock. From his eldest daughter Jean is descended W. C. Porterfield, Esq. the present proprietor of Duchal, and representative of this ancient and honourable family.

² Sir John Maxwell of Pollock.

his letter to me that he behooved not to be too forward or above board ^{1742.} against S. M.³ I have ground to think he will think and act in a different maner, considering his many relations and considerable estate. I used the same freedome in a letter I wrote to Sir John Shaw,⁴ and much the same arguments. He left this countrey last week. I caused a friend of mine speak to him at Greenock, and wrott to him to Sauchy, where he was last week, and the Lord and Lady Cardross were here, which I wish you or your friend Sir James Stuart had been. I can only say in generall, that I believe he will not be for S. M. I have been earnest with Fullwood,⁵ who only smiles, but has not declared himself. He will, I hope, goe as I goe.

I beg pardone for offering advices, (thoughe it is the fault, if not a priviledge, of old men.) Sr. M. gives himself airs—he'll stoop to court no man; but its all one thing: *Noscitur ex socio, qui non cognoscitur ex se.* A certain young man, a lawer, has been through all the shyre of Air and much of Renfrew, acosted myself with much rhetorick for him, by which I would doe a worthy, generous, and wise actione; but our sentiments differed upon the whole matter. No time is to be lost, nor pains. Some may pretend they will not be solicited; but may be, if not spoke to, will reckon themselves slighted.

When it is convenient for you, nobody shall be welcomer to my house; but as it will be more necessary to speak to many others, I shall overlook the formality till you are at all leisure. Meantime, pray make my compliments to the good Lady Caldwell, and the young ladies your sisters; and when with Sir John Maxwell, pray the same to him and his family. I wish you may be able to read this hasty undigested scrawl from, d^r Sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

POURVELL⁶ OF YT ILK.

³ Sir Michael Stewart of Ardgowan, candidate for the county of Renfrew, in opposition to Mr. Mure.

⁴ Of Greenock.

⁵ Porterfield of Fullwood, a cadet of the Duchal family.

⁶ So written for Porterfield, a peculiarity of signature which, as the editor learns from his friend, the present laird, is observable in other documents by the same hand in the family collection.

XIV.

SIR J. STEWART¹ OF COLTNESS, TO MR. MURE.Ed^r. 25 Nov^r. 1742.

Dr. Willy,

I came to town only on Wednesday, and since that time I have spok to the D. of Hamilton about your election, who desires me to assure you that he heartily wishes you success, and that he has declared his sentiments in your favour to all his friends; of whose diligence you need in no way doubt, in whatever can tend to bring all to a good issue; so that your applications may be chiefly directed to such people as you imagine to be independant of that interest: only it is necessary you should have this in so positive a manner from me, that you may be able to remove any scruples which may remain with those who have been impressed

¹ Sir James Stewart, Baronet, of Goodtrees and Coltness, Mr. Mure's first cousin; born in 1713; was educated to the Scottish bar. He married, in 1743, Lady Frances Wemyss, daughter of the Earl of Wemyss, and sister of Lord Elcho, a distinguished follower of the Pretender. In 1746, Sir James, being himself resident in Edinburgh when the city was occupied by the rebel forces, without actually taking arms, committed himself so far as an adherent of their leader as to be involved in the general sentence of proscription against his followers. His own principles, like those of his ancestors, had hitherto been favourable to the revolution settlement. He would therefore seem to have been led to this step against his better judgment, partly by the influence of his wife's relations, partly perhaps by personal feelings towards Charles Edward, from whom he had received attention, when abroad, in early life.

On the break-up of the ex-Prince's affairs, Sir James effected his escape to France; or, according to some accounts, he had been previously sent by the Prince on a confidential mission to that Court. Lady Frances followed in 1746, leaving their only son, then an infant, afterwards General Sir James Stewart, at Caldwell, under the care of his grand-aunt,

with a notion that his Grace is either to ly bye, or at least to be lookwarm upon that matter. I beg you would use all diligence in having proper applications made to such people, as, by the advice of your friends here, in whose company this letter is wrote, I here inform you of; for, as to those who are attached to the families of Dundonald and Hamilton, you may depend upon their friendship, without further application. 1742.

We have been making up a list of the county, which I here send you enclosed. If, by your information being better than ours, in any particular, you can make any amendments, you will immediately let me know, so that nothing may be omitted. Those you are chiefly to apply to are to Sir John Maxwell, that he would use his endeavours with Sir Robt. Pollock, and that Sir Robt. do all he can with Hamilton of Grange, if not to procure his concurrence, at least to prevail with him to be absent. Sir John must also speak to Dugaldston, who is more likely than any other body to determine his choice, seeing the D. of Montrose has already declared his sentiments in your favour. We likeways are of opinion that you should be at more pains with Kelly, North Walkingshaw, and Fullwood, thro' the means of anybody you think has the most influence

Mrs. Mure. There he remained for several years, until, no immediate prospect being held out of his parents' return, he was sent over to their residence abroad.

Although no severe proceedings were adopted either against the person or property of Sir James, he had yet, in spite of the exertions of numerous influential friends, great difficulty in procuring a remission of his sentence of outlawry, and his exile was prolonged during seventeen years. In 1762, while resident at Spa, he was rudely arrested and imprisoned by the French police, on suspicion of being a spy of the British Government, but was speedily released. The sympathy excited in his favour at home by this adventure led, in 1763, to a permission, from Lord Bute's Ministry, for him to return and reside unmolested in his own country; but his full pardon was not granted until 1771.

Sir James published various works on historical and miscellaneous subjects; but the one which forms his chief title to celebrity is his "Inquiry into the Principles of Political Economy;" Lond. 1767; a book of great research and ingenuity, and which contributed much to the rapid progress of that science towards the close of the last century. In addition to various other letters, some small original compositions from his pen are embodied in the present collection. Sir James died at Coltness in 1780, aged 67.

1742. with them. Here follows the list,² as we imagine they stand affected at present:—

For Sir Michl. Stewart.

Kelly.
 Craigens.
 Fullwood.
 Walkingshaw of yt Ilk.
 Burrel Shiels: Mr. Anderson.
 Sir Archd. Stewart.
 Grange: Hamilton.
 Johnston.
 Craigenseoch.
 Coll. M^cDowal.
 Mr. Milliken.
 Mr. Wallace.
 Coilsfield.

For yourself.

Sir Jas. Hamilton.
 Porterfield.
 Barrochan.
 North Barr.
 Blaythswood.
 Mr. Brisbane.
 Aikenhead.
 Sir Jo. Maxwell.
 Sir Rob. Pollock.
 Town of Paisley.
 Ferguslie.
 Craigmuir.
 Walkingshaw of Walkingshaw.
 Hew Craufurd, elder.
 Do. younger.
 Waterside.
 Hew Stewart, Esq.
 Alexr. Findlayson.

² The subjoined key to the names or designations in the above list of freeholders, though imperfect, may be of service to those interested in Renfrewshire family antiquity.

For Sir Michael.

Kelly, Bannatyne of.
 Craigends, Cunninghame of.
 Fullwood, Porterfield of.
 Walkingshaw of that Ilk. (See Mr. Mure's list.) An ancestor had sold the family property to a cousin, retaining probably a freehold superiority to himself.
 Burrel Shiels, properly Bruntshells, formerly Sempill of; now perhaps some relation of Mr. James Anderson, father-in-law of Craufurd the historian.
 Sir Archd. Stewart of Castlemilk in Lanarkshire, and of Gourrock, &c. in Renfrewshire.
 Grange, Hamilton of, in Ayrshire, married to Elizabeth Pollock, aunt to Sir Robert of that Ilk.
 Johnston, Houston of.

Here follow such as we are uncertain about, but as we suppose they may 1742.
go, there are proper marks subjoined :—

Sir Jo. Shaw, supposed absent.	Dugaldston, uncertain.
Eldersley, ab.	His brother, uncertain.
Mr. Hamilton, ab.	Peter Craufurd, ab.
Mr. Oswald, ab.	Ld. George Graham, ab.

If you know of any addition to be made to this list, pray let me know. Compliments to all yours. I shall see them, tho' not you, I hope, at Christmass. There go letters this night to London, which I hope may render your election more secure. Be sure to be at Paisley on Thursday next, where you will find Willy Wood, who can give you full information of everything.

To William Mure
of Caldwell,
by Beith.

Craigenfeoch—doubtful who had the vote. The lands probably formed part of the Donald estates.

Colonel Macdowal of Castle Semple.

Mr. Milliken of Milliken.

Mr. Wallace—probably of Cairnhill, Ayrshire.

Coilsfield, Alexr. Montgomerie of.

For Mr. Mure.

Sir James Hamilton of Rosehall, M.P. for Lanarkshire, married to a daughter of Lord Blantyre.

Porterfield of that Ilk.

Barrochan, Fleming of.

North Barr, MacGilchrist of.

Blaythswood, Campbell of.

Mr. Brisbane of Bishopton.

Aikenhead, Hamilton of.

Sir John Maxwell of Nether Pollock.

Sir Robt. Pollock of Upper Pollock.

XV.

MR. DAVID HUME TO MR. MURE.

Jan^y. 26, [1743.]

I have wrote to Mr Oswald¹ by this post, in order to promote an intimacy and friendship betwixt you. I exhort you to persevere in your intention of cultivating a friendship with him. You cannot possibly find a man of more worth, of a gentler disposition, or better understanding. There are infinite advantages attending an intimacy with such persons; among which this is not the least, as far as I can judge by my own experience, that I always derive from it an additional motive to preserve

Town of Paisley.

Ferguslie, Cochran of, a cadet of Dundonald.

Craigmuir, Cochran of, do. do.

Walkingshaw of Walkingshaw. See Sir Michael's list.

Hew Crawford, elder, of Jordan Hill.

Hew Crawford, younger, of Calderhaugh, Lochwinnoch.

Waterside—probably Waterstoun—Cunninghame of, a cadet of Glencairn.

Hugh Stewart, Esq.—brother perhaps of Lord Blantyre.

Alexr. Finlayson of Neilstonside.

Doubtful, &c.

Sir John Shaw of Greenock.

Elderslie, Wallace of.

Mr. Hamilton, probably of Barr, Lochwinnoch.

Mr. Oswald, probably of Fingaltoun.

Dugaldston and }
His brother, } Graham of.

Peter (Patrick) Crawford of Auchenames.

Lord George Graham, fourth son of the first Duke of Montrose, Captain, R.N., M.P. for Stirlingshire.

¹ See Note to No. XXIX.

their friendship. Shou'd I give you an exhortation of this kind, you 1743. might think me very impertinent; tho' really you ought to ascribe it more to my friendship than my diffidence. 'Tis impossible ever to think ourselves secure enough, where our concern is extremely great; and tho' I dare be confident of your good conduct as of my own, yet you must also allow me to be diffident of it, as I should be of my own. When I consider your disposition to virtue, cultivated by letters, together with your moderation, I cannot doubt of your steddiness. The delicacy of the times does not diminish this assurance, but only dashes it with a few fears, which rise in me without my approbation and against my judgment. Let a strict frugality be the guardian of your virtue; and preserve your frugality by a close application to business and study. Nothing wou'd so effectually throw you into the lumber and refuse of the house, as your departure from your engagements at this time; as a contrary behaviour will secure your own good opinion, and that of all mankind. These advantages are not too dearly purchased, even by the loss of fortune; but it belongs to your prudence and frugality to procure them, without paying so dear a purchase for them. I say no more, and hope you will ascribe what I have said, not to the pedagogue, or even to the philosopher, but to the friend. I make profession of being such with regard to you; and desire you to consider me as such no longer than I shall appear to be a man of honour.—Yours,

D. HUME.

Mr. Carre either has wrote, or is to write to Ld. Marchmont about you.

William Mure, Esq.
Member of Parliament,
London.

XVI.

COPY LETTER: MR. MURE TO A FRIEND¹ —NOTES OF DEBATES IN PARLIAMENT.

Feb. 24, [1743.]

There was a motion made by Lord Barrinton² to this purpose : “That an humble address be presented to his Majesty, humbly to beseech him, that, in consideration of our taxes, debt, and war with Spain, he would be graciously pleased to dismiss the mercenary troops from the British service ; in case none of the powers, and particularly the States General, who were equally engaged by treaties, and bound by interest, were to join us, and act offensively with us in Germany, in consequence of their engagements, pursuant to the address presented to his Majesty last year, and which met with his gracious approbation ; in which it was the declared sense of Parliament, that, without the timely concurrence of other powers, we were not of ourselves to engage in a war in defence of the Queen of Hungary.”

Upon this there followed a very long and warm debate. It was advanced in favour of the address, that it was entirely a hypothetical one, and so not liable to any of those objections that had been made to former motions ; that here there was no danger of disclosing secrets, nor could it be called the directing of military operations ; that it was only a conditional advice, in case his Majesty was not to be joined by other powers ; for surely no minister could be so madly sanguine or desperately ambitious, as to counsel his Majesty to engage alone in a war upon the continent, with 30000 men against the united force of France and the Empire. Mr. Waller, after some general debate, said : “that he had formerly made a motion for such letters, memorials, &c. as had passed

¹ Probably to David Hume.

² In the report of the motion in the Commons’ journal of this date, [1742, old style,] no mention occurs of the name of the mover.

between our court and that of Berlin, with regard to the march of our 1743. troops into Germany, suspicious, at that time, that the King of Prussia had made some remonstrance against that proceeding; that, though his motion was overruled, he was now sorry to inform them that his suspicions then were but too well grounded, and that what he was afraid of had come to pass; for that he had in his hand a paper sent him from Holland, and which he was sure might be depended upon, containing a memorial which the King of Prussia's minister delivered over to the States General upon Saturday se'night." He read the memorial, and it was to this purpose: "That the King of Prussia, having been informed that the partisans of England had industriously given it out that he had retracted any remonstrances formerly made against the march of the British troops into Germany, he had ordered him to assure their High Mightinesses, that these reports were entirely false; that he was fixed in his former resolutions, and was determined to do his utmost to preserve the neutrality of the Empire; and was ready to concur in such measures as he hoped would be speedily taken by the whole Germanic body, to hinder the entrance of foreign troops into their territories." The ambassador being asked, if he thought his master would oppose such troops by force of arms, answered, that he certainly would, nor was it to be doubted.

Mr. Pelham, who spoke next, raised a great many objections against this paper; that it was no Parliamentary evidence, and nothing better than a newspaper. He pretended to make a jest of the *anonymous letter*, and the *unknown correspondent*.

Mr. Pitt said: that they did not contend for it as Parliamentary evidence; but that he hoped it would bear evidence to every one, till once it was controverted, since it was in those gentlemen's power who were concerned in the Government to do so, if it was really false; as they certainly must have had frequent accounts of what passed at the Hague since Saturday se'night; that he himself was as much convinced of that paper being a true and authentic copy of the King of Prussia's memorial, as that he then spoke; and that he would make bold to challenge any minister,—nay—any man within that House, to say it was not so.

XVII.

MR. DAVID HUME TO MR. MURE.

June 30, [1743.]

I have read Mr. Leechman's¹ sermon with a great deal of pleasure, and think it a very good one; tho' I am sorry to find the author to be a rank Atheist. You know (or ought to know) that Plato says there are three kinds of Atheists. The first who deny a Deity, the second who deny his Providence, and the third who assert that he is influenced by Prayers and Sacrifices. I find Mr. Leechman is an Atheist of the last kind.

I think the language very correct; tho' there occur'd to me a few doubts as I went along, which I shall here mention, that, if you or he think them well founded, you may make use of them. I think myself very ill qualify'd to advise Mr. Leechman; but as he was once pleas'd to desire my sentiments with regard to his language, I am resolv'd not to lose the honour of such a pupil, tho' the subject be but a trifle, and tho' I owe that advantage more to his modesty than my superior skill. P. 5. L. penult. for *we do see them approaching us*, read *we foresee them*. P. 6. L. 2. add *also*. P. 8. L. 12. add *that* (this is to prevent a *construction louche*, as the French call it, or a squint ey'd construction. For you may observe, that the words following—viz. *Acts of Faith*—may at first be taken for the accusative of the verb *find*, whereas they are really the nominative of the verb *are*). P. 10. L. 8. *Besides, nothing, &c.* The parts of the construction are too remote, and may be corrected either by leaving out a part of the middle, or by recapitulating the beginning: in this manner; *Nothing, I say, can be more agreeable to this perfect character, than, &c.* Id. L. 26. *For so it shou'd, &c.* read *so is there no reason to suspect, &c.* (this is to prevent the two infinitives.) P. 13. L. 26. say, *There seem to me two ends or designs of Prayer. The first is to express, &c.* (I do not think the division can be properly made in the

¹ See Note to No. II.

sentence, unless the other member of the division were to follow in the 1743. next sentence.) The construction is also too wide in this sentence. P. 15. L. 5. Dele *with ourselves*. P. 20. L. 13. for *it* read *that Providence*. P. 21. L. ult. add *is it* supposable, I say. P. 24. L. 11. say—*yet are sometimes more uniformly*. P. 26. L. 11. say, *nothing defective or blameable*. P. 33. L. antepenult, dele *one*. L. penult. for *some*, read *a*. L. ult. dele *he had in his view*. P. 34. L. 2. say, *he resembles a traveller in a mountainous country, who, this hour, sees nothing beyond a neighbouring hill, which terminates his view ; the top of which he no sooner gains, than a new extent of mountainous hills, &c.* (Tho' the simile might be justify'd as it stands, yet it seems defective, in this respect, that it needs to be justify'd.) P. 39. L. 10. say, *what ground then is there*. P. 50. L. 9. say, *feel that the violence of the temptation is abated, and that, &c.* (The construction of the two parts of the sentence ought to be similar.) P. 51. L. 19. dele *with ourselves*. P. 53. L. 25. for *who is*, read *that is*. P. 55. L. 8. read *over us*. P. 56. L. 6. for *desires*, read *wishes*. Id. L. 20. for *the like*, read *like*. P. 57. L. 8. for *this*, read *the*.

These are all the minute faults I could observe in the sermon. Mr. Leechman has a very clear and manly expression, but, in my humble opinion, he does not consult his ear enough, nor aim at a style that may be smooth and harmonious, which, next to perspicuity, is the chief ornament of style. Vide Cicero, Quintilian, Longinus, &c. &c. If this sermon were not a popular discourse, I should also think it might be made more concise.

As to the argument, I wish Mr. Leechman wou'd in the second edition answer this objection both to devotion and prayer, and indeed to every thing we commonly call Religion, except the practice of morality, and the assent of the understanding to the proposition, *that God exists*.

It must be acknowledg'd that Nature has given us a strong passion of admiration for whatever is excellent, and of love and gratitude for whatever is benevolent and beneficial, and that the Deity possesses these attributes in the highest perfection ; and yet I assert he is not the natural object of any passion or affection. He is no object either of the senses or the imagination, and very little of the understanding, without which

1743. it is impossible to excite any affection. A remote ancestor who has left us estates and honours, acquir'd with virtue, is a great benefactor, and yet tis impossible to bear him any affection, because unknown to us; tho' in general we know him to be a man or human creature, which brings him vastly nearer our comprehension than an invisible infinite Spirit. A man therefore may have his heart perfectly well dispos'd towards every proper and natural object of affection, friends, benefactors, country, children, &c. and yet, from this circumstance of the invisibility and incomprehensibility of the Deity, may feel no affection towards him. And, indeed, I am afraid that all enthusiasts mightily deceive themselves. Hope and fear perhaps agitate their breast when they think of the Deity: or they degrade him into a resemblance with themselves, and by that means render him more comprehensible. Or they exult with vanity in esteeming themselves his peculiar favourites. Or, at best, they are actuated by a forc'd and strain'd affection, which moves by starts and bounds, and with a very irregular disorderly pace. Such an affection cannot be required of any man as his duty. Please to observe, that I not only exclude the turbulent passions, but the calm affections. Neither of them can operate without the assistance of the senses and imagination, or at least a more compleat knowledge of the object than we have of the Deity. In most men this is the case; and a natural infirmity can never be a crime. But, secondly, were devotion never so much admitted, prayer must still be excluded. First: The addressing of our virtuous wishes and desires to the Deity, since the address has no influence on him, is only a kind of rhetorical figure, in order to render these wishes more ardent and passionate. This is Mr. Leechman's doctrine. Now the use of any figure of speech can never be a duty. Secondly: This figure, like most figures of rhetoric, has an evident impropriety in it. For we can make use of no expression, or even thought, in prayers and entreaties, which does not imply that these prayers have an influence. Thirdly: This figure is very dangerous, and leads directly, or even unavoidably, to impiety and blasphemy. Tis a natural infirmity of men to imagine that their prayers have a direct influence, and this infirmity must be extremely foster'd and encourag'd by the constant use of prayer.

Thus all wise men have excluded the use of images and pictures in prayer; tho' they certainly enliven devotion; because tis found by experience, that with the vulgar these visible representations draw too much towards them, and become the only objects of devotion. 1743.

Excuse this long letter. Make my compliments to Mr. Leechman, and all friends, and believe me to be,---yours sincerely,

D. H.

June 30.—I have frequently in Edin^r enquired for the Dialogues on Devotion, publish'd at Glasgow some time ago; but cou'd not find them. If you have a copy, send it me, and I shall restore it with the first occasion. It may be a means of my conversion.

XVIII.

PROFESSOR HUTCHESON TO MR. MURE.

Glasgow, Nov^r. 23^d. 1743.

Dear Sir,

Our Professor² died this morning. Beside the letters from Messrs. Rosse to George, (who, I believe, is fixed our friend already,) could you

¹ That this letter, though without signature, is from the celebrated Dr. Francis Hutcheson, Professor of Moral Philosophy, is evident; first, from the fact of his having been a particular friend both of Mr. Mure (see David Hume's letter of Sept. 10, 1742, No. x.) and of Dr. Leechman; and, secondly, from his being the only Professor of the University, except Johnston of the Chair of Medicine, who is not mentioned in the letter. It is not to be supposed that Dr. H. at that time the most distinguished man in the College, would be overlooked. His life, written by Leechman, is prefixed to his "System of Moral Philosophy," published posthumously in 1755. He was born in Ireland in 1694, appointed Professor in 1729, and died in 1747.

² Michael Potter, Professor of Divinity.

1743. not obtain a letter from the Duke,³ our Chancellor, to Charles Morthland?⁴ You may represent Leechman as acceptable to the best of this society of his friends, viz. Messrs. Dunlop,⁵ Simson,⁶ Hamilton,⁷ Rosse,⁸ and myself: nay, Morthland pretends to be for him too; only Loudon⁹ and Anderson,¹⁰ our standard and champion of orthodoxy, oppose him; but that his Grace's letter to Morthland would not only fix him, but perhaps Loudon and Forbes.¹¹ You may represent, what is abundantly known, that he is universally approved for literature and eloquence, and that Anderson, his chief opposer, made himself ridiculous to all men of sense by dangling after Whitefield and M^cCulloch, (I want this should be known to Andrew Mitchel¹² and Tweeddale¹³); that we are not without hopes of carrying him by some of the other side, which might be thought a disagreeable obligation, and would far rather have him attached by this favour to his Grace. He can scarce scruple to write a letter to his old friend Morthland, to be communicated to Loudon and others, representing his good impressions of Mr. Leechman, and zeal to oblige some friends of Mr. Leechman's, who applied in his behalf for his Grace's recommendation, that so he might be carried by his Grace's friends. If you get Chs. Rosse¹⁴ or other members to join you in this respect, so

³ Duke of Montrose.

⁴ Professor of Oriental Languages.

⁵ Professor of Greek.

⁶ Professor of Mathematics.

⁷ Professor of Anatomy.

⁸ Latin.

⁹ Professor of Logic.

¹⁰ Professor of Church History.

¹¹ Professor of Civil Law.

¹² Private Secretary to Lord Tweeddale; afterwards British Minister at the Court of Frederick the Great, and K. B.

¹³ Secretary of State for Scotland.

¹⁴ The Honourable Charles Ross of Balnagon, M.P. for Ross-shire—killed at the battle of Fontenoy in 1745.

much the better. I am perhaps too sanguine; but even Mr. Dick¹⁵ is 1743. declaring for him, but you know his instability.

I am, yours,

You know my hand.

You might show this letter, if my name could do anything, or tell the contents; only my name must not be mentioned in his Grace's letter to his friends here.

XIX.

COPY LETTER—MR. MURE TO A FRIEND—NOTES OF DEBATES IN PARLIAMENT.

January 7th, [1744.]

It was moved¹ by Mr. Waller, that an humble address be presented to his Majesty, humbly beseeching him that he would give orders that the 6000 Hanoverians, now in the pay of Great Britain, be no longer continued in the service of this nation than the 26th of this present month, [of December,] at which time their contract expires. The motion was supported solely upon these two points—the general behaviour of the Hanoverians, insolent and haughty in quarters, backward and timid in the field, and the general dissatisfaction arising from hence in our army abroad and among the people at home. Here, you see, was a fine field for rhetorick to display itself, and indeed I never saw it so happily made use of in the House of Commons; not only to carry conviction, for that is usual, but to move the feelings and awake the sensibility of every British heart that was present. It was argued in favour of the motion, that the dissensions and animosities had come to such a

¹⁵ Professor of Natural Philosophy.

¹ This debate took place on the 6th Dec. 1743. See Coxe's *Life of Pelham*, Vol. I. p. 120.

1744. height betwixt the troops of the two nations, that they could never serve together again in the same army ; that a disunited force never could be formidable to its enemies, but dangerous it might be, nay, fatal to its friends ; that, considering the partialities that had been shown the Hanoverians, and the affronts they had from thence presumed to offer to our English troops, it would be cruel, it would be barbarous, again to expose our brave countrymen to the same continued insults from these our mercenaries, and to the sole danger, too, from the common enemy : for, by the experience of Dettingen, it seems the Hanoverians are to be drawn up in the English rear, to be spectators of their conduct, nor are they obliged to obey the orders of the commander-in-chief, tho' he only desires them to improve the victory already gained by our valour. It was argued, upon the other side, that the motion was premature, before the estimates were given in, and even before it was known whether the Crown intended these troops should be employed next year in our service ; that it was in a manner giving up the war, as we did not know of any other troops that could be hired against next campaign ; and, above all, that this address was most undutyfull and indecent to his Majesty, as it assigned no reasons, so the worst might be supposed ; and as the reasons advanced for it in the debate attributed the dissatisfaction of the army to partiality, which could proceed from none but one single person. To these particulars it was answered, that, if the motion was premature, it in so far favoured the Administration, as they would have more time to engage other troops against next spring ; and that we remembered last year these troops were first taken into our service, and then the Parliament saddled with the payment of them, for this notable reason : that they *were already* taken into our service ; that the question was not now where we could find other troops, (though that was not so difficult as gentlemen were pleased to represent,) but whether or not the electoral troops could co-operate with ours any longer. Upon its being objected by the other side that there was no evidence of these quarrels ; that things were set in a false light, to poison the mind of the publick, by libellers who were disaffected to his Majesty's person and government ; that we had not had so much as the report of

any of the gentlemen of the army who were present; and when the 1744. officers plainly seemed to be pointed at, our countryman Charles Ross² made a very worthy appearance, which will ever be remembered to his honour, and I hope he shall always merit the reputation that yesterday's behaviour has gained him. He rose up and said very prettily, in a few words, as he was but a young man, he could not expect his opinion would have any great weight; but that as the officers who served in last campaign were in a manner called upon, he thought himself bound in duty both to his king and country, to declare it as his judgment, that it was impossible for the Hanoverians and English troops to serve any longer together in the same army. In proof of this opinion, he gave two very proper instances of the insolence and injustice of the Hanoverian officers. The last objection with regard to his M——ty was answered by Mr. Pitt, who is certainly a most wonderful man, and it was agreed by all he never showed himself so much as last night. I dare not attempt to represent him, but among many incomparable things I remember he express't himself to this purpose: "That he had always looked upon it as a principle of the British constitution, that the King could no more do wrong in the camp than he could in the cabinet; that whatever was done in either, his advisers were accountable for it; but unhappily for his Majesty, unhappily for Great Britain, while he was with the army he was hemmed in by H——n generals, and one infamous English monster, who seemed to have renounced the name of an Englishman. With regard to the decency of the address, he said, the people of Britain were discontented but not yet disaffected; what the continuance of such measures might produce he trembled to think of. His Majesty was now situated upon the brink of a precipice; a few steps further would hurry him to the utmost verge. At such a time at least it little became his faithful Commons to be strewing flowers of flattery and panegyrick under his feet. They should rather, with a rough but friendly hand, snatch him from the abyss he was ready to fall into, and, with their timely aid, place him again upon the secure basis of the affec-

² See Note 14, to No. XVIII.

1744. tions of his people." There were a great many other things thrown out in the course of the debate, that well deserve to be mentioned. Mr. Grenville³ the elder, brother to the gentleman that was in Scotland last summer, said that the disjoining the Hanoverian dominions from the crown of Britain was a cause he would always promote; it was a cause upon his promoting of which he wished to fix the criterion of his being a good friend to his country, and it was a cause he was ready to seal with his blood. Mr. Oswald⁴ made a speech in support of the motion, with the deserved approbation of all that heard him. After a debate of eight hours we divided, and it was carried against the address 231 to 181. There were but three officers of the army divided with us, two of which were Scotchmen, Charles Ross, and Will^m. Stewart.⁵ If we gained one countryman we lost another; Neil Buchanan,⁶ to his eternal infamy be it said, divided with the majority.

XX.

DRAFT OF SPEECH SPOKEN—OR INTENDED TO BE SPOKEN—BY MR. MURE,
IN THE COURSE OF ABOVE DEBATES.

Nothing, Sir, but the great importance of the present debate, could have prevailed upon me to risk betraying my disabilities to this august assembly. But the question before you appears to me of such a nature that I could not satisfy myself, as upon other occasions, with shewing my sentiments only by the division. I wished further, in order to exonerate my own breast, to be able to give my testimony, poor as it is, against this pernicious measure; a measure, Sir, which I cannot help representing to myself as necessarily attended with the most dismal

³ The Honourable George Grenville, First Lord of the Treasury in 1763.

⁴ Of Dinnikier, M.P. for the Kirkaldy district of boroughs.—See No. XXIX.

⁵ The Honourable Captain William Stewart, M.P. for Wigton district of boroughs.

⁶ M.P. for the Glasgow district, brother of Buchanan of Auchentorlie. He died in this year.—See next Letter.

consequences : the disaffection of our people at home ; the indignation 1744. and despair of our army abroad ; the frustration of all our schemes (whatever they are) upon the continent ; the disappointing of the hopes of all our friends, and the dispelling of the fears of all our enemies.

We have been told, by the gentlemen of the other side of the question, that, if we don't employ these troops, they must be disbanded, as the revenue of the electorate is not able to support them. Allow me to say, Sir, these troops are no concern of ours ; or, if they are, I hope it shall always be more as objects of our jealousy than our care. We hired them as mercenaries to assist us, but they did not. We paid them to fight for us, but they would not. Why really, Sir, if this is the way, that, in first setting up in trade, they serve their best customers, it is no wonder if they are soon out of business.

I would ask : was it ever allowed, as an objection to any proposed reduction of our national troops, that the officers and men would lose their pay and be disbanded were it agreed to ? Why, this is the very intention of the proposal. And can we sustain that as an argument in the one case, that would be looked upon as trifling and ridiculous in the other ?

Sir, I am sorry there should have been occasion to talk so much of *partialities* in the course of this debate. But if you agree with the resolution of your Committee, I venture to say you give occasion to complain of partialities of a more melancholy kind ; the partialities of a British House of Commons. Shall this House authorise a partiality in us, Sir,—a most unnatural partiality—in favour of foreigners as preferable to our own countrymen ? in favour of our rival subjects as preferable to our fellow-citizens ? in favour of Hanoverians as preferable to Britons ?

Upon the whole, the only benefit attending this measure, that I can discover, is the great pecuniary emolument the pay of these troops will bring to a petty Utopia in Germany. But, Sir, has Great Britain nothing to expect from the measure ? Has she not, on the contrary, every thing to fear ? the loss of blood, the loss of treasure, the loss of reputation and honor, the loss of security and quiet ? What opinion

1744. then can she form of the abettors and contrivers of this project? Must she not think, that, despairing of her confidence and favour, they have bid an open and bold defiance to her resentment? It is then high time, Sir, for us in her name to interpose our speedy aid, and, by the resolutions of this day, undeceive a good but ill-advised Prince, and preserve the credit of a patriotic but ill-governed people. This is what the voice of an injured nation most loudly calls for. This is what the voice from the throne, if rightly directed, would as loudly call for; and this, Sir, is what we, as guardians of the one, and counsellors of the other, are indispensably bound in duty to perform.

XXI.

JOHN GRAHAM,¹ ESQ. TO MR. MURE.

Glasgow, Feb. 22, 1744.

Dear Sir,

I received yours on Saturday last, att six att night, by expresse; and that night and the Sunday following show'd it to all the capitall men in our Toun Councill, and all of them passed verry great compliments upon you, both for your firm adherence to the true interests of your country and the good sense contained in your letter; and I dare say it made some considerable impression upon them, to send you a proper representative, if we can get a right man to accept of it; but there is our great difficulty att present. They were pleased to desire me either to go myself, or to endeavour to persuade Richard Oswald² to accept of it. They knew that I had not health for close attendance in Parliament; for I assure you, that no other consideration should have any weight with me att this juncture; and I know I could trust more to Mr. Oswald

¹ It is doubtful who this gentleman may have been. His name occurs as one of the leading burgesses of Glasgow, in the Cochrane Correspondence, in the Collection of the Maitland Club.

² Afterwards of Scotstoun in Renfrewshire, purchased by him in 1748.

than any man within the town: but then there is no prevailing with him, and indeed his arguments against it are very strong. I sent an expresse on Sunday to Sir John Maxwell,³ Sir Archibald Stewart,⁴ and Aikenhead,⁵ desiring them to be here early on Monday. The two last have considerable influence upon some in the Town Council of Rutherglen; and as I know Sir John Maxwell or his son⁶ would be very acceptable to the people here, my business was to persuade him either to the one or the other. But he is, in my opinion, quite inexcusable, for he will neither goe himself, nor allow his son. Our next effort is to be upon Andrew Aiton, who is a man of good understanding, and has hitherto acted a very honest part. The only objection is that his estate is not so great, but that his attendance would either hurt his private affairs, or make the temptation to desertion appear stronger to him. But what I would propose to him is, that as I know he is determined to throw himself out of foreign trade, that he would dispose of his factory, and remove his family to London, and sett up entirely for the business which Mr. Buchanan followed, and in that case he would soon be in a better situation than ever he was here. But he is not in town at present, and I must inform you that he show'd me, about two weeks ago, a letter he had from the great lawyer from Scotland,⁷ acknowledging the receipt of one of the memorialls about the linnen manufacture, and using some arguments against it; but, in my opinion, they were such as any schoolboy should have been ashamed of. I shall only trouble you with two of them. He said he was afraid it was a favour we could not expect while we were engaged in the German war. So we must spend our blood and treasure in defence of Germany, but are not to expect the smallest favour to our own country, if it interferes with any of these concerns. The next would have had at least the face of an argument two years ago, which was, that it would make the coarse cloath come out dearer to the planters in our sugar colonies; but then he

³ Of Pollock.

⁴ Of Castlemilk.

⁵ Hamilton, of.

⁶ See Note 1 to No. VIII.

⁷ Probably the Honourable William Murray, now Solicitor-General, afterwards Earl of Mansfield.

1744. says that all these interests will be for us ; so it was to no purpose to use arguments for them when they had given up the cause themselves. But people are in a miserable situation when they must first espouse a bad cause and then rack the little invention they have to defend it. This puts me in mind of a reflexion of Dean Swift's, who says, it is a strange thing when people have neither a talent for speaking nor the discretion of holding their tongues. This is too long a digression from the design of my letter ; but tho' wee in this place shall always, I hope, entertain a gratefull remembrance of the obligations wee lie under to severall of our countrymen, yet we must be allowed a little vent to the superfluity of our wrath against some others ; and I take those of our countrymen who voted against giving this encouragement to the linnen manufacture, to be ten times more culpable than those who voted for the malt tax upon this countrey ; and I should earnestly wish we had an exact list of those who voted for and against us in that affair, as also of the absents.

I shall next inform you that on Sunday's night there came an expresse from the Secretar of State to our Provost, intimating the message which his Majesty sent to both Houses of Parliament. I thought he would have taken that opportunity of recommending some person for their Member ; but I saw the letter, and he said nothing on that affair. On Monday, there came one from the D—e of A——e,⁸ strongly recommending the heir of his family ;⁹ but wee had one of the heirs¹⁰ formerly, and he wrott only three letters to this corporation in seven years ; and he did not so much as know who were our Magistrates ; for his first letter was directed to Richard Graham as Provost of this town. So I assure you that recommendation will not take in this place at present. I likeways saw a letter from A——n¹¹ to a friend here, insinuating that a near relation of his might happen to be upon the field as a candidate for this district of burrows ; but his recommendation would have gone

⁸ Duke of Argyle.

⁹ Colonel John Campbell, younger of Mamore, afterwards fifth Duke of Argyle, who was elected.

¹⁰ Cornet William Campbell, uncle to the above ; sat from 1734 to 1741.

¹¹ Stewart of Allanton, probably—in Lanarkshire.

further with me, and a great many others in this toun, some years agoe, 1744. than now.

Since writing the above, I received yours by this days post, and shall do justice to the two gentlemen you mention. Sir John Maxwell has this day consented to let his son stand for this district. If this had been done on Monday, there would have been no difficulty ; but our toun has brought themselves into a lock by their answer to the Duke of A——e, in which they told him that they thought the heir of his family too young to represent such a trading place as this ; now the same objection stands against the other gentlemen. However, by next post, I hope to give you some more satisfactory accounts in this affair.

I am, with great sincerity,

Sir, your most obed^t. humble serv^t.

JOHN GRAHAM.

XXII.

MR. DAVID HUME TO MR. MURE.

Edin^r. Aug^t. 4, 1744.

Dear Will.

I shall tell you how my affair stands. Dr. Pringle¹ has been absent two years by allowance ; and about six weeks ago wrote a letter to the Provost, in which he seem'd, in a manner, to have resign'd his office, and desir'd the Council, if they thought the University any way a sufferer by his absence, to send him over a resignation, in form, which he wou'd

¹ Dr. John Pringle, afterwards Sir J. Pringle, Bart. President of the Royal Society of London, now Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, had been appointed physician to the forces abroad. In anticipation of his resigning the former office, Hume was a candidate for the Chair. The Doctor retained it, however, for a year afterwards, when Hume again preferred his claims, but they were set aside on account of his sceptical principles.

1744. sign; and then they might proceed to the choice of a successor. Mr. Coutts,² upon receiving this, mention'd me to several of the Council, and desir'd me to mention myself as a candidate to all my friends, not with a view of soliciting or making interest, but in order to get the public voice on my side, that he might with the more assurance employ his interest in my behalf. I accordingly did so; and being allow'd to make use of the Provost's name, I found presently that I shou'd have the whole Council on my side, and that indeed I shou'd have no antagonist. But when the Provost produc'd the Doctor's letter to the Council, he discovered that he had in secret wrote differently to some of his friends, who still insisted that the town should give him allowance to be absent another year. The whole Council, however, except two or three, exclaim'd against this proposal, and it appear'd evidently, that if the matter had been put to a vote, there wou'd have been a majority of ten to one against the Doctor. But Mr. Coutts, tho' his authority be quite absolute in the town, yet makes it a rule to govern them with the utmost gentleness and moderation; and this good maxim he sometimes pushes even to an extreme. For the sake of unanimity, therefore, he agrees to an expedient started by one of the Doctor's friends, which he thought would be a compliment to the Doctor, and yet wou'd serve the same purpose as the immediate declaration of a vacancy in the office. This expedient was to require either the Doctor's resignation, or a declaration upon honour, that, whether it were peace or war, or in any event, he wou'd, against Nov^r 1745, return to his office, and resign his commission of Physician to the Army, or any other employment incompatible with his attendance in this place. This last condition, Mr. Coutts thinks it impossible he will comply with: because he has a guinea a-day at present as Physician to the Army, along with a good deal of business, and half-pay during life: and there seems at present to be small chance for a peace before the term here assign'd. I find however that some are of a contrary opinion, and, particularly, several of the Doctor's friends say, that he will sign the obligation above mention'd. We shall receive

² See Note 1 to No. XXVI.

his answer in a fortnight; upon which my success seems entirely to 1744. depend.

In the mean time, I have receiv'd another offer, which I shall tell you as a friend; but desire you may not mention it to any body. My Lord Garlies receiv'd a commission from Mr. Murray of Broughton to look out for a travelling Tutor to his son, who is at present at Glasgow. My Lord inclines to give me the preference; but I could not positively accept, 'till I had seen the end of this affair, which is so near a crisis. Please to inform me of any particulars that you know with regard to the young man, his family, &c. that, in case the former project fail, I may deliberate upon the other. The accusation of Deism, Heresy, Scepticism, Atheism, &c. &c. &c. was started against me, but never took, being bore down by the contrary authority of all the good company in town. But what surpriz'd me extremely was to find that this accusation was supported by the pretended authority of Mr. Hutcheson, and even Mr. Leechman, who, tis said, agreed that I was a very unfit person for such an office. This appears to me absolutely incredible, especially with regard to the latter gentleman. For as to Mr. Hutcheson, all my friends think, that he has been rendering me bad offices to the utmost of his power. And I know that Mr. Coutts, to whom I said rashly, that I thought I could depend on Mr. Hutcheson's friendship and recommendation; I say Mr. Coutts now speaks of that Professor rather as my enemy than as my friend. What can be the meaning of this conduct in that celebrated and benevolent moralist, I cannot imagine. I shall be glad to find, for the honour of Philosophy, that I am mistaken; and indeed I hope so too, and beg of you to enquire into the matter, but very cautiously, lest I make him my open and profess'd enemy, which I would willingly avoid. Here then it behoves you to be very discreet.

Tis probable Mr. Murray of Broughton may consult Mr. Hutcheson and the other Professors of Glasgow, before he fix absolutely on a Tutor for his son. We shall then see whether he really entertains a bad opinion of my Orthodoxy, or is only unwilling that I shou'd be Professor of Ethics in Edinburgh; lest that town, being in the neighbourhood of

1744. Glasgow, should spread its contagion all around it, and even infect the students of the latter University.

I have passed a week with Mr. Oswald at Kirkaldy. He makes his compliments to you. He has shown me the whole Oeconomy of the Navy, the source of the Navy Debt, with many other branches of Public Business. He seems to have a great genius for these affairs ; and I fancy will go far in that way, if he perseveres.

I find, with pleasure but without surprize, that you have acted like a true friend in your letter to Archie Stuart.³

I go out of town to-morrow. Please to direct to me at Ninewells⁴ near Berwick. My compliments to all your family.

XXIII.

COPY LETTER: MR. MURE TO A FRIEND—POLITICAL CHANGES.

[Dec. 1744.]

I was favoured with yours some posts ago, but delayed making you a return on purpose, till I could with certainty give you an account of our great political revolution,¹ which was then hourly expected. As it was far from being agreeable in the closet, it was put off till the very day of the Parliament's breaking up, when the changes were declared, and writs moved for the re-election of the Commoners who had accepted of places according to the enclosed list.² As I believe the rise and fall of particular persons is what you are very little interested in, I shall endeavour, at your desire, to give you my opinion how far this may affect the

³ See Note 3 to No. XXVI.

⁴ The seat of Mr. Hume's family.

¹ The formation of the "Broad-Bottom" Administration, in December, 1744. See Coxe's *Life of Pelham*, Vol. I. pp. 196–199.

² Inclosure not preserved.

general interest; tho' that can only be fully known by our people's 1744. future conduct, of which hitherto we have got no sufficient assurances; and this, to tell you truth, I look upon as no favourable symptom. Their manner of coming into power is what alone one can at present judge by, which in some respects was extremely right and laudable. I wish it had been carried on throughout with the same resolution, and the same appearance of disinterestedness. Upon the old Courts' disagreeing so far with Granville,³ that they had declared to his Majesty they would serve no longer if he continued to employ him, there were the most ample terms offered to the people in the Opposition. A *carte blanche* was produced to them, with assurances of the entire possession and disposal of all places, providing only that Granville should remain in office. To give this the greater weight, the message was sent by no less a person than the first-born, directly from the Cabinet; to which, without hesitation, they returned answer, that they could never serve along with any man who set up the standard of Hanover in opposition to that of G. Britain. This, sure, was acting like men. Granville's fall was now unavoidable, and the coalition with our people forced upon the Crown. It is here I wish they had made the change of measures go hand in hand at least with that of men. It is here I wish they had obtained some previous pledge, some token for the country, that it, as well as they, was to reap benefit by these alterations. National confidence has been of late so wickedly abused, that 'tis no wonder if the people want something more than the integrity or faith of individuals to give them any degree of satisfaction. If they are again disappointed, heavy will the load of infamy fall, and the despair which I know you have long had of any redress by the Parl—t. must become universal. But better things are to be hoped for. We are told that the dismissal of the Hanover troops was a first preliminary to the late negotiations. I wish it has been so; but I don't pretend to assure you of it. It would be a great and a very difficult point gained. I do indeed believe they intend we should get quit of these troops. But what security have they

³ Carteret, Earl of Granville. See Coxe's *Life of Pelham*, Vol. I. Chap. V. and VI.

1744. provided against the constant yielding and many sacrifices that have been made to that foreign interest? Our present unhappy situation with regard to the war no doubt extremely perplexes them, tho' there is nothing so much talked of as the carrying it on upon a true British footing, in order as soon as possible to obtain a British peace. How this is to be done, the event must only prove. One thing we seem to have gained by these alterations, is the removal, in great measure, of all disagreeable party distinctions. Many of those gentlemen called Tories are now taken into place, without abandoning their former professions, or deserting their former friends. But still it entirely depends upon their future behaviour whether even this shall turn out to the public detriment or advantage. In short, you see everything is in suspense, but must soon be disclosed upon the meeting of Parliament again. When anything remarkable happens, I shall not fail to write you.

XXIV.

MR. MILLER, OF GLENLEE, TO MR. MURE.

Glasgow, 4th Nov^r. 1745.

My dear Willie,

The situation of affairs in this country at present is such as must certainly engage your concern and attention not a little. It is a melancholy subject to write of, and what perhaps few people would choose to volunteer upon; but I have learnt to put a strange value upon your friendship; and, as I thought my intelligence of what is passing in Scotland would be agreeable to you at present, I was fond to contribute, as far as was in my power, to your satisfaction in that particular. It may seem indeed that my correspondance is not extremely valuable, when, by reason of my present situation, I am unable to inform you with certainty, either of the number or motions of the Highland army. Our last letters from Edr. advise us that they evacuated that place by the march of their advanced guard upon Thursday last, their main body upon Friday, and their rear guard yesterday afternoon. They at present occupy the

towns of Dalkeith, Musseleburgh, and the other villages adjacent. There ^{1745.} is a report to-day that they are upon their march towards Lauder, in order to attack Berwick before Generall Wade come up with the army. But whatever may be in this report, they certainly give out in their army that they are to meet Genl. Wade and fight him so soon as he enters Scotland; with what probability of success I shall leave you to judge, when I have informed you, that, according to our latest advices, their army upon Thursday last was not 7000 strong, and of these not above 5000 Highlanders.

It is extremely surprissing to us here that so little pains has been taken to guard the northern coasts. No less than four ships have lately landed from France, with 12000 stands of arms aboard each ship, besides some cannon, money, and military stores. The cargoes of all these ships had safely landed at Edr. before the march of their army, by which means they are not only all compleatly armed, but have likewise a considerable quantity of arms to carry alongst with them for the service of their English friends. This day we have certain accounts of the arrival of two more French ships at Montrose, with arms and other stores, but no men. But we imagine that their cargoes will hardly be gott up to their army in time, especially now that their battery near Aloa, by which they commanded a passage over the Forth for their other cargoes, is demolished. By this passage they saved a very long carriage by the heads of Forth, where the roads moreover are almost unpassable; so that it would have been of great consequence if this passage could have been prevented. However, after repeated trialls by his Majesty's ship the Happy Janet, it was found impossible to disturb them, or hinder their whole convoy to pass, consisting of above 100 cart loads, besides artillery.

A few days after the passage of their grand convoy, a party of about 40 Highlanders happened to pass at the same place, of which General Blackney having been informed, sent out a party from the Castle of Stirling, under Lieutenant Abercrombie, who, having surprised the Highlanders, put them to flight, and, with the assistance of the country, took sixteen of them prisoners, with their whole baggage. It is surprising what a spirit begins now to appear thro' the whole country. Last

1745. Wednesday, being his Majesty's birth-day, the inhabitants of Perth inclined to give some publick evidence of their loyalty, in which they were interrupted by a party of Highlanders, then in the town. Upon which the mob rose, disarmed the whole party, killed a French officer who happened to be amongst them, wounded severalls, and drove the rest out of town. Poor wretches ! it would pity you to hear how their parties which come off from the army are hunted down, in their passage through this west countrey homewards. Severall instances of this have happened since their march from Edr. which has already occasioned a considerable desertion, and which in all probability will increase, in case they should turn their backs upon the King's army, and endeavour to enter England by the west road, which many people imagine they have in view.

There has been no junction of any considerable persons to their army for some time. You have heard of Ld. Kilmarnock's being with them. His Lordship had the honour of uplifting the excise from the town of Falkirk last week, and of lifting some horses for his Highness's use from that neighbourhead. We have long heard of the M^cDonalds and M^cLeods being upon their march to Edr. But as we have not heard any mention of them for some days, we hope the President¹ has at length prevailed, and kept them at home. If the M^cLeods come up, our friend Sandy M^cLeod² certainly comes with them.

Lord Kenmure, (as you might see from the newspapers,) has been up at Edr. and kissed the Prince's hand. His joining of them was so little doubted of, that, to my certain knowledge, a good many horse were pressed, to be formed into a body under his Ld.ship's command. However, after spending some time at Edr. and conversing fully with their Generals and Statesmen, he found their affairs in such confusion, and in so desperate a way, that he privately withdrew from court, and has returned to his own countrey. What I have said of the motive of my

¹ Duncan Forbes of Culloden, Lord President of the Court of Session.

² This Alexander Macleod, advocate, had been sent by the Pretender from Edinburgh on a mission to the chiefs of Sky, to induce them to join.—Home, Hist. of Rebell. pp. 130, 324.

Lord's return you may depend upon, not as a conjecture of my own, but 1745.
as the reall account of his Ld.ship's conduct. Poor Cumming, our friend,
is with them. I likewise hear of Ferguslie's³ having joined no earlier
than Tuesday last. Sir Ja: Stewart continues under his parole, and is
preparing, as I am told, to return soon to Coltness with his family.

You have probably heard of an accident which happened to Ld.
Dundonald last week. He happened to be going in to Edr. to see my
Lady, and having come up with a coach in which Lochail's Lady and
children were, near to town, he thought he would meett with less
trouble from the Highlanders, if he rode into town with the coach. It
happened to be pretty late when they came to West-port, which happened
to be shutt. Upon which the coachman crying out to open the gate to
friends and Prince's people, the castle having overheard, fired down
upon them as they entered the Grass mercat, by which my Lord's horse
was shot under him; his servant was killed upon the spot, and Stalker's
wife, who was in the coach, and goeing in to see the Prince, was shot
through the hip so dangerously that her life is despaired of.

XXV.

MR. JOHN GRAHAM¹ TO MR. MURE.Glasgow, 4th Nov^r. 1745.D^r Sir,

As I hope long before this time you have got safe to London, I
shall acquaint you with any material news that occurs here, and must
earnestly begg, that you will be so good as to let me know what is
passing with you, in relation to the confusions that have so long disturbed
this country.

We are now certainly informed that the whole of the Highland army,
which, by the best accounts we have, consists of 6000 Highland men,
and 2000 Volunteers from the Low country, have marched from Edinr.
the length of Duddistown, in order, as they give out, to meet Marshall

³ Cochran of Ferguslie, in Renfrewshire.¹ See No. XXI.

1745. Wade, and fight him ; but my own opinion is, that they will wait where they are, untill he is a day's march on this side of Berwick, and then in the night time endeavour to give him the slip, and so march streight for Westmorland, and from that to Wales, if they are not prevented ; for they have seiz'd as many horses as are not only sufficient to carry their whole baggage, but likeways to mount all their Volunteers, that would never be able to march up with the Highlanders. We are like ways very well informed, that Genll. Wade was to be at Berwick as on Saturday last, and our accounts say, that there are 15000 regular forces with him, so that we all hope that a little time will extricate us from the difficulties we have laboured under ; and as I doubt not but you will have heard of the narrow escape that my Lord Dundonald had, I shall acquaint you of the true state of that case. My Lord, it seems, when I was in the country, had been strongly importuned to come into Edin^r only for a day or two ; and, without acquainting his Governour, he hired a couple of horses on Saturday was a fortnight, and early on the Sunday there after he sett out for Edin^r and carried with him one Moy, a horse-hirer. He arrived at the West-port at Edin^r about nine that night, and he there overtook a coach that was carrying in some of Lochell's children, and, as the gate was shut, Moy the hirer was so foolish as to call out to open the gate to some of the Prince's people. This was heard from the Castle wall, upon which they fired a cannon with grape shot, which killed Moy the hirer, and my Lord Dundonald's horse under him, and wounded a gentlewoman that was in the coach with Lochell's children. My Lord returned to this place, two day's thereafter, sufficiently convinced of the folly of that visite. Sir Robert Morton had just such another escape last week ; for as he was going to his own house, a shot from the Castle carry'd away a part of his boot head, and killed the horse he rode upon. I have but too much reason to believe that F—g—lie² has been so foolish as to joyne the Highland army, and I am, D^r Sir,
Your most humble Ser^t.

JOHN GRAHAM.

I must likeways use the freedom to give you the trouble of the inclosed letter.

² See note 3 to No. xxiv.

XXVI.

JOHN COUTTS, ESQ.¹ TO MR. MURE.Allanbank, Nov^r. 8, 1745.D^r. Sir,

I wrote Mr. Oswald last post, and sent him a state of facts relating to the entry of the rebell army into Edinburgh, as I could make them out from my memory. If they have come regularly to his hands, he has no doubt shoven them to you; but, lest they have miscarried, I have sent you a copy² which is not very correct, as I had little time for writting out either the principall or the copy, and had no emanuensis to assist me but one of my sons, who has not been as yet used to writting anything but versions at the schooll. However, should the principall to Mr. Oswald miscarry, I doubt not but you'll be able to hammer out the facts one way or other. When I come to town, I may probably send you a more regular state from the city records. Mr. David Hume wrote anxiously to know the state of that affair. I wrott him enclosed in my letter to Mr. Oswald, and I desired Mr. Oswald to furnish him with a copy of the facts. In case my letter to Mr. Oswald has miscarried, you'll please to forward to Mr. Hume the enclosed letter, with a copy of the inclosed narration, which you may put, if you please, in some better order or dress. There are no doubt many facts I have ommitted which might be of use in our friend's³ vindication, which will be suplyed by himself

¹ John Coutts, banker, and afterwards several times Lord Provost of Edinburgh—at this period one of the most influential citizens of the town. He was, by his wife, Jane Stuart of Allanbank, father of James and Thomas Coutts, late bankers, Strand; the former of whom represented the city of Edinburgh from 1762 to 1768.

² The inclosure referred to has not been preserved.

³ Archibald Stuart, wine-merchant, Lord Provost and M.P. for the city of Edinburgh, son of Sir Robert Stuart, Bart. of Allanbank, a cadet of Coltness. He was accused

1745. when you see him. You know he has a very great property at Leith—I may say his all—lyeing in wine-cellars. Whether he has thought proper to stay to look after his property, when it's in such hazard from the lawless governours they have for some time had in Edinburgh, or if he has gone to take his seat in Parliament, I know not; but in any case I thought it my duty to send you this narrative, that you may be able to satisfie his friends that he has not been guilty either of cowardice or treachery. And tho' his enemies have been successfull enough in raising a cry against him, yet time, I hope, will bring out the truth, and that it will then appear that the cry has been raised by those people who, to cover their own faults and blemishes, have endeavoured, with some success, to lay this load on an innocent man. I beg you'll, on receipt of this, write me, that I may be satisfied of it's having reacht your hands, and you may write me under cover of Mr. Fenwick Stow, mercht. in Berwick. If this letter should be opened, as I believe most letters are, I hope, nevertheless, it will go forward, as the narrative or letter contains reflections on no man whatever, nor anything but a few facts, which can be made good, I think, by evidence; and it hurts no man, but serves the public, that the truth should come to light.

I am, d^r. Sir, your most humble ser^t.

JOHN COUTTS.

Since writting this, I took a resolution of writting you some things with regard to the springs of this cry against our friend, how it has been raised; but as the post is going, I have not time, but I shall soon again have occasion to write you. If anything is to be wrote in deffence of our friend, its proper to be known how the suspicion and cry against him first rose. This copy has been wrote by my son, very incorrectly, and, I am afraid, is scarce legible. If my letter by last post has reached Mr. Oswald, it matters not whether you can make out the reading of this or not; but if it has miscarried, you must make out this the best way you can, for I had not time to transcribe it.

of favouring the Pretender and conniving at the occupation of the town by the rebel force. For this he was brought to trial in the following year, but was honourably acquitted.—See Home's History of the Rebellion.

XXVII.

MR. MILLER TO MR. MURE.

Glasgow, 10th Feb^y. 1745-6.

Dear Willie,

I should have thought myself much to blame, after what I promised, for haveing ommitted so long to write you of the wonderfull revolutions which have happened here lately, if I had not been informed of the freedoms used at the Post Offices since the affair of Falkirk. I should have liked much to have given you an account of that affair, according to the impression I had of it when 'at Lithgow with the army the night of the defeat. It would perhaps have amused you a little to have compared such account with what I am now going to write you of the present situation of affairs.

I suppose by this time you are quite master of all the particulars of that memorable action, and might therefor avoid giveing them in detail. It is certainly extremely unaccountable, that Genl. Hawley should have lyen in his camp, and allowed the King's army to be attacked by a parcell of rebells. Upon the 16th at night he lay encamped within four miles of them. The weather next morning was extremely favourable, and if he had then marched and attacked them, as every body expected, he must without all peradventure have beat them to the devill. God knows what was his reason for delaying his business. But so it was, he kepted his camp upon the 17th till two afternoon, when he had the mortification to see the rebells within two miles and a half, advanceing to attack him, before he knew anything of the matter. By this time it blew a hurricane of wind and rain. The Generall, it seems, thinking it dishonorable to be attacked in his camp, marched his troops towards a rising ground to meet the enemy, by which means he shortned the distance betwixt him and the rebells, and consequently lost so much time, which he greatly stood in need of, in order to form his army. The whole

1746. cavalry were ordered to the high ground, which was the left of our army, and had taken up their ground timeously. The infantry followed with surprising spirit, considering the badness of the day, and that the storm was full in their face. But the rebels, perceiveing our troops upon their long march from the camp to the field of battle, hurried on to attack them; so that the attack began before our second line was quite formed, and most of the regiments which were formed, by the quickness of their march, and the steepness of the hill upon which they were drawn up, were quite out of breath, and appeared to be greatly discomposd. The cavalry, which were all upon the left and in front, with the first line of foot, received the enemy's fire with great composure, and went on very briskly to the charge; but were soon put into disorder by the fire from the enemy's second line. Upon which they turned back and run off in the greatest confusion. This struck a panick into the foot, which was greatly increased by the cries and confusion of many thousands of spectators, and by the violence of the storm, which in a great measure rendered their fire arms useless, so that, in less than eight minutes after the attack began, the whole army was in confusion and flying; whole regiments run off without firing. Those troops which had been last upon the plains of Tournay, were the first to make their escape. In short, the pannick was generall and strong beyond conception; and, had the rebels known how to have followed up their advantage, they must infallibly have cut the whole army to pieces. But, by some mistake of theirs, the pursuit haveing been for a little restrained, Genl. Husk took that opportunity of rallying a few troops upon the right wing, by which he has had the honor of saveing the King's army with a handfull of men not exceeding 800, mostly of Darrell's, Ligonier's, and Price's regiments; he received and repulsed the repeated attacks of a victorious enemy, and, after haveing kept the field of battle for a considerable time, till the flying troops had got safe to the camp, and were again formed in line of battle, he at length retired in the critical moment, and joined the army at the camp with the loss a very few men. I am absolutely perswaded, if we had known the condition of the rebell army, our people might have continued in their camp, or even on the field of battle, all night. But as our army were in

a damnable pannick and consternation, and their arms quite useless by 1746. the excessive rain, it was certainly prudent in the Generalls not to run the hazard of being again attacked in these circumstances. This occasioned the retreat to Lithgow, which was attended with the loss of cannon, tents, bread, baggage, and everything else which could denote a defeat. In this action, our whole loss does not amount to more than 200 killed, and about 50 prisoners picked up on the retreat; for no quarter was given upon the field of battle. The rebels, its' said, lost double our number, mostly by the fire from Husk's men. This is the best account I could give you of this memorable battle, at which I was present, and in which about 7000 of the best troops in the world fled like so many children before half that number of undisciplined militia. I say half the number, because, tho' the two armies were near equall in number, yet only the clans (who were in the 'first line) engaged, the Perth, Athole, Angus, and other low countreymen, haveing fled upon the first attack. As to the consequences, they have been still more extraordinary than the affair itself.

Before this action, the rebels were confident they would allwise be able with their broad swords to break once through any battalion of men, and most of our military people, both officers and soldiers, seemed to be a little apprehensive that this might be the case. But the glorious stand which Husk made, with such a handfull of men, against their whole army, exhibited such a distinct proof of the advantage of fire arms and regular troops against these irregulars and their broad swords, as must certainly have greatly discouraged the rebels; while it has certainly, upon the other hand, augmented the spirits of our men, and their contempt for such an enemy.

However, I think the Government were much in the right, not to run the risk of a second defeat. They very wisely have further secured the advantage which has arisen from the last action, by sending down the Duke to head the army. It is not possible to express the ardour with which that same army, which had been defeat the week before, marched out of Edin^r under his Royal Highness.

There is a sort of enthusiasm arises from his presence in the army,

1746. which seems to be diffusing itself through this whole country. We call him our Deliverer, and the people begin to entertain the greatest conceptions of him you can imagine. And no wonder indeed that it should be so, when we see that very army which a week before had the boldness to attack and defeat Genl. Hawley's, now flying with precipitation, and abandoning their enterprise, at the approach of that same army now headed by the Duke of Cumberland.

We have not yet heard the secret springs of this sudden change. But so it was, that, upon the approach of his Royal Highness to Lithgow upon the first of February, the rebels, that same night, with the greatest precipitation, fled beyond the Forth. Various causes it is said concurred to occasion this retreat. Ld. Jon. Drummond, (who has been bred in a regular army,) told the Chevalier and the other leaders, that, from what happened at the battle of Falkirk, he plainly saw they could not stand before regular troops. Some add that the clans, having observed that in every action they were exposed, while the low country people only consulted their own safety, refused to engage any more upon these terms.

The loss of some hundreds of their best troops at Falkirk, and of as many in the mad attempt upon Stirling Castle, may have perhaps also contributed to discourage them from standing another action. But, beyond all these, the presence of the Duke has most contributed to strike them with terror. I was told by a gentleman who was in their army when the accounts came of the Duke's arrivall at Edr. that he never saw such surprise and consternation as appeared amongst them, and that severall of the officers said it was now all over, for that there was no possibility of making their men stand a second engagement.

The Duke is now at Perth with his whole army. He found at Stirling, Down, and Perth, a good many cannon, some baggage, &c.; but as he was stopped some days at Stirling by reason of the bridge's being cutt, he has not been able to get up with any of the rebels. It is certain from all accounts that they are scattering over the whole north country. But what conduct the Duke is to observe upon this occasion nobody can tell. For my part I don't see what more he has to doe with them. In a month or six weeks the troops, properly distributed, will be

able to pick up abundance for making examples of; and as we have 1746.
squadrons both on the east and west coast, their escape may be rendered
pretty difficult. I have tired myself with writing, but if it is agreeable
to you, I can do it with the greatest pleasure. All your friends here
are well.

I am most sincerely,

My dear Willie Mure,

Your affectionate friend and obedt. servt.

THOMAS MILLER.

To

Willm. Mure, Esq^r.

Member of Parliam^t for the county of Renfrew,
London.

XXVIII.

1746.

THE HUMBLE ADDRESS OF THE JUSTICES OF THE PEACE, FREEHOLDERS,
AND GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNTY OF RENFREW.¹

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

Most gracious Sovereign,

We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, beg leave in
the most humble manner to approach your Majesty, with assurances of
our utter abhorrence of the unnatural rebellion now raised in this king-
dom.

As the fate of war has of late deprived us of your Majesty's gracious
protection, we now feel with double satisfaction the restoration of that
just and mild government whose beneficent influence had by this daring
rebellion been for some time withheld from us. Our distance from the

¹ In Mr. Mure's hand, and drawn up by him. See David Hume's remarks upon
this address in a subsequent letter, of date 27th Oct. 1775, No. cccv.

1746. seat of Government had no way diminish't our zeal and affection to your Majesty's person ; while the happy effects of your royal virtues diffused themselves to the remotest corners of your dominions. Our near neighbourhood to the seat of rebellion encreased our horror of such dangerous and traiterous practices ; while we saw with greater certainty the arbitrary principles on which they were founded, the violence with which they were conducted, and the anarchy and tyranny which they must necessarily introduce. Our zeal for religion, our affection to the publick, our gratitude to your Majesty, our concern for our own interests and those of our posterity, all combine to give us the strongest attachment to your Majesty's person and Government,—happy that, by your Majesty's permission, we have at least this opportunity of expressing these just and sincere sentiments, but unhappy that Fortune has hitherto deprived us of any more effectual or more vigorous methods of displaying them !

XXIX.

JAS. OSWALD, ESQ.¹ OF DUNIKIER, M.P. TO MR. MURE.

London, 25 Decr. 1746.

Dear Willy,

Tho' your passing this winter in the country will deprive your friends here of a pleasure, yet the reasons you give, and others which might be given, can not but meet with their approbation. The rebellion

¹ The right honourable James Oswald, of Dunikier, represented the Kirkaldy district of boroughs from 1741 to 1747; the county of Fife from 1747 to 1754; and again the Kirkaldy boroughs from 1754 to 1768, when he retired from public life. Throughout this whole period he was an active, useful, and upright Member of the Legislature. Lord Woodhouselee pronounces him a model of a virtuous and enlightened statesman; and David Hume, in several letters in this Collection, speaks of him in high terms of commendation. Even Horace Walpole, with the customary, but here unmerited stigma on his honesty, which seldom fails where a Scotchman is concerned, does ample justice to his talents. He describes him (in 1751) as "a man who was master of a quickness and strength of argument not inferior to any speaker in the House. The rapidity

being now happily extinguished, must, as was easy to foresee, be necessarily attended with confidence in a superior degree on the part of Parlt., which all who are friends to their countrey may resolve to watch, and give attention to, but which it were certainly vain and fruitless, perhaps imprudent, to oppose. 1746.

Our senatorial campaign opened as usual by speech and address, both decent. One thing however happened, which, had it come from any other quarter, must have recalled to every body's mind the ancient senates of Rome, not indeed the ancientest of all, but those however under the first of their Emperours. Sir John Barnard objected to the address as not expressing a high enough approbation of the measures projected, nor expressing sufficiently the just expectations we might form of their consequences. Mr. Pelham opposed the amendment, and showed very clearly the dangerous consequences attending adulation to the Throne. The incident, you will say, was ridiculous enough; and indeed, had the amendment come from any other quarter, I should have imagined it either a piece of factious adulation or jocular humour. But from S^r John it proceeded singly from the high, vulgar, native English expectation, of beating France by every confederacy whereof England is a part. Every winter has its favourite topick of expectation. That of this is the taking of Marseilles by the Austrian army, and laying all Provence and Languedoc under contribution. Was it not that one has the opportunity of observing this folly every season, it would really

of his eloquence was astonishing; not adorned, but confined to business. He had come into Parliament about the time of Sir Robert Walpole's fall, and had consulted a friend whether the ministry or the opposition were likely to prevail. His friend recommended him to the former; his own sagacity conducted him to the latter; which being soon after victorious, he reproached his friend with the scrape into which he had drawn him. On the change he was made Commissioner of the Navy, which he resigned on the New Place Bill to keep his seat, but, wavering in his connexions, had no new preferment."—*Mem. of Reign of Geo. II. vol. i. p. 51.* Mr. Oswald afterwards filled several other important offices.

His correspondence, published by his grandson, the late General Sir John Oswald, G.C.B. in 1825, contains but a scanty remnant of the many valuable documents formerly in the same repositories.

1746. astonish one to see how this possesses the vulgar of all ranks, from St. James's to the Change. The passage of the Var, the magnanimity and firmness of the King of Sardinia, with his last words to his son, recommending fidelity to his allys, in case the small pox should have cut him off, are in every body's mouths. Within these eight days four Dutch mails were due, and nothing less than the taking of Toulon and Marseilles was expected; the first by the mob, the last by the politicians; for that it seems is the project. The mails are arrived, but contain no particulars worth notice as to the progress of the army in Provence. One thing, however, they have brought, which may possibly produce strange consequences, and is in itself already a very fatal affair, should it even proceed no further. A dispute having arose in Genoa betwixt the Austrians and the inhabitants, some of the latter having been abused by the former, while drawing some corn to be shipped on board for the coast of France, both sides took arms, and a good deal of bloodshed ensued. Whether this has been the effect of French faction, or a mere Genoa quarrel, is not determined. But t's certain that great city runs a great risque of being pillaged, or perhaps has already been pillaged, from this accident. The Genoese soldiery was not disarmed, and t's said has gone to attempt to raise the blockade of Savona; so that the politicians are in high expectation from the consequences of this event, and begin to speculate a good deal upon the character of Mons. de Botta, the Austrian General left in Italy, who some say is of a Genoese family, and has been all along strongly suspected by the K. of Sardinia, whom he has done all he could to set by the ears with his mistress.

War more vigorous than ever is the word here, all but in England. For this purpose we have already had the Budget opened, as far as the supplies go, leaving the project with respect to foreign affairs, as to particulars, still open. The sum intended and own'd by the ministry is about eight millions seven hundred thousand pounds, as follows:—2,000,000 by the Land Tax; 750,000 by the Malt; 1,000,000 by the Sinking Fund; 4,000,000 by Annuitys, att 4 p. c^t; and 1,000,000 by a Lottery, att 4 p. c^t on Annuitys. The 4,000,000 at 4 p. c^t are raised by open subscription, and allow'd with this bonus of having 110 for 100

subscribers, which makes 4£ 8^s upon the capitall. It is reckoned the 1746. cheapest bargain ever has been made for the publick for such a sum, and is the product of Sir John Bernard, adopted by the ministers, who did him the justice to acknowledge it; in return to which he complimented as highly their readiness to receive it.

Such is the confidence, and such the wealth, real and imaginary, of this country, that the subscription being opened in a morning was filled before noon, and had actually gone to 6,000,000 instead of 4,000,000; so that the great complaint is, not having had a large enough share. Ten p. c^t was to be deposited in the Bank before Christmas, and has been already done. It bears now in the Alley 3 p. c^t premium. The other 1,000,000 by Lottery is not yet voted, but will be immediately after Xmas, and is intended for paying so much of the Navy debt; the event of the subscriptions will no doubt with this fill, tho' without any bonus at all. But what is perhaps most surprising, all this is filled without fund for payment, from mere general confidence. The ministry have not yet said what the fund will be, nor is it known. My paper is filled, so I can write nothing of Ld. Lovat's impeachment, nor a good many other things. But as to what you write of your friend, I'm in good hopes no such bill will be brought in as was once talked of; but if it should, I will do all that friendship can suggest. Strange is well, tho' not yet married. Sir Hew is not yet come up; all others are well,

And I, y^r faithfull,

JAMES OSWALD.

XXX.

MR. ELLIOT¹ TO MR. MURE.

Edin^r. Feby. 5, 1748.

D^r. Mure,

The post before last I received yours, and, as it contains an apology for being so negligent a correspondent, I shall only take the liberty to

¹ See Note 1 to No. IX.

1748. say that I have not quite so much forgot London as to imagine that every letter from that place should contain matters of great importance. Were you indeed a young fellow about town, I should expect every week fresh accounts from all the numerous resorts of gayety and pleasure ; but, Mure, you are member of a Parliament,—that has nothing to do.

You desire my opinion with regard to the Juris-dictions, which I shall very freely give you ; but, first, must observe, that it is no wonder that you gentlemen above, who act in so high a sphere, should sometimes be misrepresented here ; since even our little supreme court meets with such unjust censure in London. What our Judges may deserve before this matter come to a conclusion, I can not take upon me to say ; but in the mean time you may safely venture to assure your English friends, who have no intelligence at all, and your Scots friends, who seem to have but bad intelligence, that as yet there is no value put by the Court of Session upon any one of the Jurisdictions ; nor as yet, as far as I can learn, has the most distant hint fallen from one of them what rule they intend to establish for ascertaining the recompence to be allowed. Their method of procedure is this ;—a roll is made up of all the claims given in, and the objections made either to the title or value. This roll they propose to go twice over, first to settle the title and then the price. They are just now thro' about one third of the roll for the first time. As numbers of claims are given in upon very slight titles, several have already, and probably more will be, cut down. All the general points yet debated have been determined in favour of the subjects, excepting one, and the justice of that decision I have never yet heard impeached by the most violent. What has given rise to your story at London, I take to be this : in the course of settling the titles, the Lords have found, in one or two cases at most, that the claimant could not demand above a certain sum, and that was where it clearly appear'd, from the Record of Parliament, that the jurisdiction was declared redeemable for a certain sum, by act of Parliament obtain'd upon application of the possessor of that jurisdiction.

To give my opinion of the behaviour of the Judges I do not much chuse, because, whatever notions people may have who judge from slight

views of things, it is hard to blame men for differing from us, where 1748.
 their duty obliges them to go more to the bottom, and to give their
 opinion not as favour but as justice requires. However, upon the whole,
 it appears to me that the majority of the Bench seem inclined to do the
 subject all justice. Upon one or two, reflections have been thrown out
 pretty freely, with what justice I cannot say. We had yesterday a race
 between Lord Eglinton and Mr. Charters:² they rid themselves; Mr.
 Charters rid Lady Katy's pad, which had cost a good deal of money,
 and Lord Eglinton his Stable Drudge, worth about fifty shillings. They
 did not gallop but only pace. This, you may imagine, was a very sorry
 race. However, Charters, who lost it, I believe does not think so, for it
 cost him five hundred pounds st^r and a ball to the company beside.

D^r. Mure,

Yours, &c.

GIBT. ELLIOT.

XXXI.

LORD DRUMMORE¹ TO MR. MURE.

Drummore, Nov^r. 28th. 1748.

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure of yours, with Sir James Stuart's inclosed,
 directed to you. It is unlucky that his to me has miscarried, tho' that
 loss is pretty well repaired by what he has wrote to Mr. Pringle, and to

² Younger brother of Lord Elcho, attainted; afterwards fifth Earl of Wemyss.

¹ Hew Dalrymple, Lord Drummore of the Court of Session; second son of Sir Hew Dalrymple, Bart. of North Berwick, Lord President of that Court. He is described by Lord Woodhouselee, in his *Life of Kaim*, as one "whose eminent worth and probity, together with a high feeling of honour, and a noble and ingenuous boldness of countenance and deportment, gave uncommon force and authority to all his arguments and opinions." He was grandfather to the present Sir Robert Dalrymple Horne Elphinstone, Bart.

1748. you. I am glad he has born the blow so calmly, and that his resolution to ask pardon, and to throw himself upon his Majesty's mercy, is quite spontaneous; for you see he complains that he has heard from none of his friends upon it. It is impossible for any body who knows Sir James not to have great regard for him; he is a very pretty man every way. But for us, who are his relations,² at this time it is incumbent upon us to exert ourselves with the greatest alacrity and vigour to rescue him from the jaws of perdition. I am persuaded, when Sir James has yet more leisure to reflect, that the principles of his ancestors, and, I may say, almost his whole kindred, will recoil; and if his Majesty shall bestow a mark of his royal clemency upon him, it will quite reconcile him to them, and thereby put him in the way to be usefull to his friends and country, which he has most excellent talents to serve. I don't know if in the end it will not be a blessing to Sir James and them that he has been thus afflicted; he has too much honour not to be grateful, and I hope he will be the more so in proportion to the favour to be bestowed. We all know that Sir James's parts, and his behaving contrary to the principles of his education, made him more the object of vengeance than many a one who actually had been in arms; and tho', according to the rules of right policy, because of his great abilities, it becomes of the greater moment to the Government to have him broke off from their enemies; yet still, if they shall make a punishment, now in their power, to be succeeded by mercy, the favour is, with respect to Sir James, so much the greater, as the provocation was high and his abilities great. I am indeed in great hopes, that, upon his submission, he shall be pardoned, and some steps have been taken to pave the way for his being well received. I have spoke to Milton,³ who is very well disposed to be assisting; so is L^d Advocate,⁴ and that in a very particular manner; and, as no time is to be lost, I am to-morrow to write to his Grace of Argyle, and humbly to request his assistance, which I doubt not he will give. I have desired Mrs. Calder-

² Sir James's mother was an aunt of his Lordship, sister of the Lord President.

³ Lord Milton, Justice-Clerk. See No. LXXXI.

⁴ William Grant of Prestongrange, elevated to the Bench as Lord Prestongrange in 1754.

wood⁵ to write the Marq^t of Lothian, who is to talk to his son Ancrum, 1748. and I shall to-morrow write to L^d. Cathcart to put that matter in as good a shape as possible; and I shall write to Sir James tomorrow to come directly to Paris, or some place near it, to be à portée, and for the greater facility of correspondance.

What I mentioned above with respect to the opinion of the ministry, and their anxiety in getting a bill found against Sir James, I was interrupted in following out, by observing, that it will be absolutely necessary for Sir James to go great lengths in his submission. It would be terrible if any thing dry or ambiguous should appear in what he says in his petition. The bill found against him must be taken to be just, and his deep sorrow professed for his accession to the late rebellion. He must declare off in the clearest terms with the enemies of his Majesty's person and government; must humbly implore his Majesty's pardon, and assure his Majesty, that, while he lives, he will behave himself as a faithfull peaceable subject to his Majesty and his royal family. You see there is no room for a treaty in this case; I shall therefore give it as my opinion to Sir James, to make the terms of his submission so clear and so full, as at once to give absolute satisfaction; and I think it best to settle these with Ld. Cathcart.⁶

I don't know what to say about Lady Fanny's⁷ going over. At first I approved of it, afterwards some difficulty cast up to me from her connections, which are not usefull but rather hurtfull to an operation of this kind, where favour is to be conciliated. Much will depend, if she goes, upon the language she holds, the company she keeps, and the manner of her behaviour, which, as she is naturally extremely well disposed and fond of Sir James, I think she might mould so as to be more usefull than any other; and she should, when she presents the petitions, carry her son along with her. Every thing to move pity, even altho' there should be the greatest hopes to obtain it; as a disappointment would be

⁵ Of Polton, Sir James's sister.

⁶ Lord of the Bedchamber to the Duke of Cumberland, and his Aide-de-Camp at the battle of Fontenoy.

⁷ Sir James' lady; she was sister of David Lord Elcho, attainted in 1745.

1748. fatal. At same time I would beg Sir James not to be precipitant in taking any resolution upon the desperate footing, altho' at this time his application should not be agreed to. Possibly it may not be granted at once; perhaps seem to be refused, to try him, tho' in the end it may be agreed to; you see then it will, whatever should be the inconvenience, be better for Sir James to have patience, and make a second trial, as to take a step which may shut the door quite. I cannot think but it ought to have weight with the ministry, that the granting this favour to Sir James will be most acceptable to all his kindred, who are so notably attached to his Majesty and Government; and who will reckon it their duty to reclaim him, if anything of that kind shall be needfull, and their happiness to rejoice over the return of the prodigal, or lost sheep, as you please. Would God I saw that dear day. Thus, my dear Sir, I have thrown out my sincere thoughts to you, with an honest and hearty intention to do all the service I can to a man whom I so much love, and am so nearly connected with.

I ever am, my dear Sir, your's,

ADIEU.

I have found the Justice Clerk extremely well disposed. But I beg of you to keep our applying a dead secret. Milton and Minto,⁸ both hesitate as to sending over Lady Fanny, so Sir James must be told not to send her till he shall be advised.

XXXII.

MR. MURE TO THE DUKE OF HAMILTON.

Lanark, May 18, [1750.]

My dear Duke,

We have had an engagement and are come off victorious. The trusty veteran carried his point, kept the field, and late at night took

⁸ Sir G. Elliot, Bart. of Minto, appointed Lord Justice-Clerk in 1763—died in 1766.

care of the dead and wounded. As upon such occasions 'tis natural for 1750. combatants to write to communicate the good news of their success to those under whose banner they conquered, I flatter myself it will not be disagreeable to your Grace to have a short detail of our campaign, the fate of which was two days ago decided at Lanark.

Immediately upon the accounts of Sir James Hamilton's¹ death, your Commissioners applied to Sir Hew, begging he would make offer of his services to the county to represent them in his brother's room, which he positively declined, and for such reasons that the thing could not be well insisted on. They then bethought themselves of our old friend the Captain,² as the only person who, by his connexions, and from other considerations, could unite the several jarring interests of the shire, and preserve your Grace's interest in your absence. He received with horror the first proposition of drawing him from his retirement into publick life; but at length they, by writing, speaking, and P. Cockburn's insisting, prevailed, and he sent his circular letters round the county, acquainting us that he stood upon Duke Hamilton's interest, and assuring us that it would be safe in his hands.

In the mean time, Sir A. S.³ and his brother, J. C. without any previous communication with any one else who might be supposed to wish well to that interest, prevail with Aikenhead⁴ to offer his services, and that too upon the same footing as was given out, in order to support the interest of your Grace's family. So here there was a competition declared, and all the artillery of elections set to work, and played off for some time, with various success. As I have undertaken to give a full history, I must here take notice, that, though the party last mentioned held no correspondence with the gentlemen entrusted by your Grace with the management of your affairs, yet they had frequent intercourse with a set of electors of the Upper Ward, who kept themselves un-

¹ Sir James Hamilton, Bart. of Rosehall.

² Patrick Stuart, Esq. of Torrance.

³ Sir Archibald Stuart, of Castlemilk.

⁴ Hamilton, of.

1750. engaged, stood off as a section apart, and of whom Mr. Dundas⁵ was reckoned the leader. Matters went on in this shape till within five days of the election, when Sir H. H.⁶ desired a meeting of both sides, with a view, if possible, to promote accommodation betwixt the two contending candidates. We accordingly met here, and Capt. Stewart offered either to refer the whole to Sir H.'s determination, or that lists should be produced, and that the person who had the smallest number of adherents should drop his pretensions, and concur with him who had the greatest, in order that both sides might with unanimity go up to Lanark, and show themselves in reality and truth friends to that interest which they professed to support. This was absolutely rejected, and all prospect of a compromise was lost. At this meeting, Sir H. who had often spoke his mind in private, opened his sentiments publickly, and with such force, that the poor laird of Dalziel,⁷ who had slept none for some nights before, declared he should not be able to shut his eyes for several nights to come. That good gentleman, I think, is sadly under petticoat government; which, joined to some strong personal obligations he held himself under to Aikenhead, influenced him at last to make a wrong step. However, he had a merit afterwards in refusing to be transferred at the day of election, as I shall just now mention.

We met at Lanark in great suspense. We found ourselves too weak for both factions if they united, and our opposers had always given it out, and plumed themselves with the assistance of Mr. Dundas and his squadron, while we were quite ignorant of their inclinations. But they soon undeceived us both, and showed that they meant no more than to make tools of Aikenhead and his friends; for they immediately proposed a man of their own, and insisted with our adversaries to give up their pretensions, as having no chance, and to join with them in favour of Mr. V. of S.⁸ in opposition to Peter. This being refused,—and here, I am

⁵ Dundas of Arniston. See Note to No. III.

⁶ Sir Hew Hamilton.

⁷ Hamilton of Dalziel.

⁸ James Vere of Stonebyres, elected M.P. for the same county in 1754.

told, Dalziel was the first man that struck out against any transference,— 1750. they came of their own accord, and told the Captain they meant to support him; so, upon a vote, we dubbed him Member 16 to 12, and afterwards got merry, and drank your Grace's health, and unanimity to the County of Clydesdale.

I have perhaps troubled your Grace with this tedious narrative, for which I have only this apology, that people are very apt to insist too long upon what they themselves are much interested in; and your Grace's interest in the County has for some time affected me very nearly. Allow me the additional pleasure of offering my best wishes for your health and welfare, and of assuring your Grace with what respect and regard, I am, &c.

XXXIII.

THE DUKE OF HAMILTON¹ TO MR. MURE.

Turin, 4 July, N.S. 1750.

Dear Willy Mure,

A thousand thanks for your kind letter, which I received yesterday. I rejoice heartily with you in your victory, and am vastly obliged to you for the care you took to gain it. I own it was a thing of such consequence, that I was not a little uneasy till I heard of your success, which makes me the more obliged to you for your letter. There are some

¹ James, sixth Duke of Hamilton, died in 1758, aged 34, leaving Mr. Mure a principal guardian of his children. This is the Duke characterised by Horace Walpole, as "The abstract of Scotch pride; he and the Duchess, at their own house, walk to dinner before their company; sit together at the upper end of their own table; eat off the same plate; and drink to nobody beneath the rank of an Earl. Would you not wonder that they get any body either above or below that rank to dine with them at all? I don't know

1750. gentlemen who opposed my interest, that I own astonish me a little. The laird of Dallziel has been unlucky in quitting my interest and not carrying his point. Now let me ask you, dear Willy, how the lasses go on with you? Who is married or agoing to be married? Are —— as scarce a commodity at Hamilton as in my time, and —— as plenty? If you are in Scotland when you receive this, or indeed if you receive it at all, for that may not happen, (for if I am to judge by the number of letters I receive from that part of the world, I should think a great quantity miscarry, or that I am much neglected, you may be sure I shall rather suppose the former,) I beg you will not fail answering my letter with all the news you can find. As you have no acquaintances here, it can't be entertaining to you to know what is going on, so I will end with assuring you of my friendship and esteem, and the continuance of it, while I am, Dear Willy,

HAMILTON AND BRANDON.

whether you will not think all these very trifling histories; but, for myself, I love anything that marks a character strongly."—Letters, vol. ii. p. 449.

The above letter certainly does not savour of such supercilious haughtiness. The very improbability, adverted to by the lively gossip, of any respectable member of the London fashionable world being willing to eat even a ducal dinner, on such terms, were in itself, it is to be hoped, sufficient evidence that the character is here not merely *strongly marked*, but grossly exaggerated.

Of the Duchess, the celebrated Elizabeth Gunning, see No. cxcvi. Note 1.

XXXIV.

MR. OSWALD¹ TO MR. DAVID HUME.²Honington, 10th Oct^r. 1750.

Dear Sir,

However wrong I certainly have been in not returning your papers sooner, I shall attempt no other apology but the real truth. Your subject was, I thought, equally curious and important. I considered it with the utmost attention, and thought you had not embraced the whole of it, and that your argument was inconclusive. Unacquainted with writing on such matters, I found myself involved in perplexitys: I often lay'd down and often took up the pen again. I am not fully satisfy'd myself; but yet hope you will find some things necessary to be again considered before you print the Essay.

In your Essay you set out with remarking, that the jealousy of being drained of their *produce* and *money* has occasioned, amongst nations ignorant of commerce, the prohibitions against exporting commodities and money, which, you justly observe, have always produced effects directly contrary to what was intended:

The first, by diminishing cultivation att home, instead of increasing it; while, by the second, the money of a countrey is only exported in a greater quantity in proportion to the risk occasioned by the prohibition.

¹ See note to No. XXIX.

² This letter is a criticism on Mr. Hume's Essay on the Balance of Trade, as yet unpublished, and which first appeared in 1752. The passages marked with inverted commas are citations from the Essay.

On the blank portion of the last page of the MS. is a scrap of composition by Hume himself. A fac simile of this curious relic has been subjoined. It is evident that the letter had been submitted to Mr. Mure's inspection, and left in his hands.

Hume's reply to it, of date November 1, 1750, will be found in Mr. Oswald's published Correspondence, p. 65. It is to the general effect, that Mr. O. had misapprehended several of the leading arguments of the Essay; and that the objections urged, if brought properly to bear on the question, really tend to confirm rather than invalidate the author's views.

1750. The same jealous fear, you say, still subsists with regard to the apprehension there is in most countreys of being drain'd of their gold and silver from the balance of trade being against them ; and you might with great justice have added, that this jealousy, wrong directed, has produced as pernicious effects in most countreys as the abovementioned absurd prohibitions.

The various obstructions created by the laws of different countreys, in various branches of trade, from a false view or partial examination of this balance, would have justify'd the observation ; and, by pointing out the insufficiency of the Custom house books, and even of the rate of exchange, for forming an accurate and impartial judgement on this subject, you had sufficiently established the partiality with which this matter has hitherto been considered.

You observe, with great justice, the groundlessness of all such jealousy in any countrey while its *people* and *industry* remain ; and had you concluded with the necessity there was therefore of taking these circumstances into consideration, along with *the state of the trade* and *the gold and silver* of any countrey, before any judgement was formed on the balance of its trade—before any jealousys were entertained on that head, or any remedys applied to a supposed wrong, &c.,—I should have expected with the greatest pleasure, from so good a hand, some of the justest observations on the reciprocal effects which these produce on each other. From such observations all groundless jealousys might have been removed, which but too frequently prevail on this important subject, and all partial and inadequate remedys, but too often perniciously apply'd, might have been for the future more safely combated by the force of truth.

But you attempt in the Essay to cure this jealousy in a different manner, and endeavour to dispel all fear, with respect to the balance of trade, by proving that this balance, as it exists in different countreys, simply depends on the greater or less plenty of money in each, and that on either side it naturally and necessarily corrects itself. *People* and *industry*, tho' mentioned in your first proposition, enter for nothing into the argument which is adduced to prove it. They are not all along

supposed to be affected by the greater plenty or scarcity of money, which 1750.
circumstances alone are respectively supposed to direct the different states of the balance, in the same infallible manner as gravity directs all communicating fluids to their level.

This proposition, which is certainly new, is established by *one single argument*, tho' it is illustrated by a number of curious observations; and I have ventured to send you the following remarks on the one and the other, from a firm persuasion, that the argument is inconclusive, from not embracing the whole of the subject. Upon reconsidering it, you will be able to form as simple a theory, and one from which all the consequences you have taken notice of may be deduced in as just a manner, and perhaps with greater usefulness to the publick. My view is not criticism, and therefore I shall expect from your candour that you excuse all errors whatever; and if, pardoning my delay in not writing sooner, you will take the trouble of pointing out the errors, I shall further esteem it as the truest mark of forgiveness, as it will certainly be the most agreeable one you can bestow.

Your argument seems to be this:—The price of all things, depending necessarily on their quantity and the quantity of money to purchase them, alters the quantity of money, whether by increasing or diminishing it, and the price of all things is altered in the same proportion. An overbalance in trade is only acquired, and can only be preserved, by the low price of labour and commoditys. Whenever, therefore, the overbalance creates a greater quantity of money in any one countrey than is in the neighbouring countreys, and consequently raises the price of labour and commoditys, the balance will turn in favour of the others. “Suppose four-fifths of all the money in Britain to be annihilated in one night, what would be the consequence? Must not the price of all labour and commoditys sink in proportion,” &c. Now, this proposition is so far from being universally true, that in any countrey which has a free communication with its neighbours, it is, I think, evidently false. For, in such a countrey, suppose the quantity of money to be annihilated in any given proportion, it will not necessarily follow that the price of all labour and commoditys will sink in the same proportion; because these objects, not being con-

1750. fined to the mere quantity of money in that countrey, may, and, unless obstructions of a foreign nation interfered, necessarily would be purchased by money of other neighbouring countries with which there is a supposed communication, and where a like diminution of money had not taken place.

The same consequence will plainly follow on a miraculous augmentation of the quantity of money in any country, under the like circumstances of communication: "For suppose all the money in Britain were "multiply'd fourfold in one night," it would not necessarily follow "that all "labour and commoditys would rise to such an exorbitant height that "no neighbour nation could afford to buy from us, while their commoditys, on the other hand, became so cheap in comparison, that, in spite "of all the laws that could be made to the contrary, they would be "sent in upon us, and our money would flow out till we fell to a level "with them, and lost that superiority of riches which had lay'd us "under such disadvantages." The increased quantity of money would not necessarily increase the price of all labour and commoditys; because the increased quantity, not being confined to the *home* labour and commoditys, might, and certainly would, be sent to purchase both from foreign countreys; which importation, unless obstructed by arbitrary and absurd laws, would keep down the price of commoditys to the level of foreign countreys; and if the price of labour still continued for a short time at a higher rate than that level, it would only serve, by *attracting foreigners*, to increase the number of useful inhabitants in proportion to the increased quantity of money.

But as the propositions contained in your argument seem to me not true in general, so I think they are still less so when apply'd to the different sorts of labour and commoditys, on all which indiscriminately the effect of the greater or less quantity of money is supposed by the argument to be uniformly the same. For it were easy to shew, that, either on the supposition of a miraculous augmentation or diminution of the quantity of money, or such an one as shou'd happen in the common course of things, necessities of life, materials of manufacture, manufactures of different kinds, and labour, as respecting necessity, conveniency,

or luxury, would be differently affected; and would attract, or be attracted, 1750. in a different manner, by the interposition of money to or from neighbouring countries where no such change had happened. In communicating countries all *transportable* commoditys will ever be nearly all the same price, or, as you express it, all on a level, because they may be transported from the one country to the other, with the addition only of the charge of transportation. But it does not therefore follow that the quantity of money either is the same, or naturally will become the same, in all such countreys; because the cultivation and population of the one may increase, and naturally will increase, while the cultivation and population of the other may diminish.

When effects are considered in the order as they happen, this, I think, will appear plain, and be further confirmed from universal experience, where unnatural or artificial obstructions are not interposed, and even receive an additional confirmation in those cases where such obstructions are interposed. Let your own supposition be taken for a moment: "That the money of Gt. Britain was multiply'd fourfold in " one night; let it be further supposed, as the first effect, that all labour " and commoditys should rise four times in their price;" what would be the further consequence? 'Tis evident, on the one hand, while this situation lasted, that no commoditys or labour could be exported from Britain, and consequently none of its necessarys of life, materials of manufacture, or even manufacturers, labourers, or other such people. But, say you, all things would be imported from the neighbour countreys, notwithstanding the severest laws to the contrary, which is certainly true. But would not the necessarys of life and materials of manufacture imported at low prices necessarily reduce the price of labour and commoditys? Would not a very small proportion, and, consequently, a very small quantity of the increased money exported suffice for this purpose? Would there not in this interval be the greatest possible encouragement for cultivation at home, and a flowing in of inhabitants from abroad, to enjoy the high price of labour while it lasted—and even the level price, after it was reduced to it—amidst such a constant demand and such plenty of necessarys, as plenty of money, which, in other words,



1750. is nothing but a representative of plenty, would constantly preserve? And might not such a countrey, (preserving even a greater quantity of money than its neighbours,) by such superabundant quantity of necessarys and materials produced or imported, be enabled still to preserve the level price of labour and commoditys, and consequently be not only the manufacturer but the storehouse of the world? There seem to me to be no natural causes whatever, no more than a plenty of money, which could prevent this. Let us see, then, how artificial causes prevent it. Plenty of money and an overbalance in trade naturally, and in the first instance, produce a high price of all labour and commoditys, and as naturally produce importations, which would correct this effect. But such importations are generally obstructed by laws, in countreys which are inconsistent enough to imagine they can reconcile the balance of trade from abroad with a high price of labour and commoditys at home. And such laws and prejudices have more easily obtained, and are now more difficult to alter, as they coincide so strongly with the passions and interests of all individuals. To such absurd obstructions the ineffectual one of prohibiting the exportation of money has been added. But as money can most easily be exported, while necessarys and materials are most easily prevented from being imported, and manufactures of luxury are more easily imported than their materials, it evidently follows that all such obstructions, tho' they evidently keep up the high price, do not preserve the quantity of money which was the original cause of it. The money will certainly follow in such a case as that you suppose, and flow into the countreys where cheap labour and cheap commoditys attract it, where it will circulate, producing cultivation and population, till obstructed by such or other artificial causes. For other causes there certainly are which keep up the price of labour and commoditys, as well as plenty of money. All taxes on the necessities of life and materials of manufacture are of this sort; for all such heighten the price of commoditys and labour, without increasing, unless nominally, the wages of artificer or labourer. In most commercial countries two great capital errors are visible: one is mistaking the first efforts of plenty of money for the constant, permanent, and desirable effects of it. Hence the price of all produce

and labour, which naturally rise on the plenty of money, was to be secured, not by the same causes which produced it, but by laws to prevent the future correcting operation of that cause. Rises in the price of produce and labour are not the naturall and permanent effects of wealth, which naturally, and, if not checked, would go on to produce *cultivation*, *population*, and *storing* within the wealthy countrey. These are the only desirable effects of riches, and they are its genuine effects: they would follow naturally, (if not obstructed,) and would as naturally correct the rise of price in all labour and commoditys, the level price of which, with neighbour nations, can alone render them permanent. The other mistake I take to be, that rich countreys are capable of all sorts of taxes. But taxes on necessaries of life and materials of manufacture fall not upon the riches but the labour of a country. They raise directly the price of all labour and commoditys, and consequently prevent their sale in foreign countreys; and the misfortune is, they admit of no corrective, as in the case of plenty of money with a free communication: bountys and drawbacks are in vain, and *untaxing* alone is the remedy.

This theory with regard to the level which money is necessarily att in all communicating countreys—the small quantity of it which may be employed to produce this effect—and consequently the small degree in which the different quantities of it in different countreys are affected by it, is, I think, obvious, on considering the case of France and Holland, but chiefly the last, where necessaries of life and materials of manufacture are always to be had as cheap, often cheaper, than in the producing countreys. The level price of money in all communicating countreys could only produce the first of these effects, and the superior quantity of money the last. But the level price of money and the quantity of money are two distinct things. By the first, Dutch money purchases as cheap; by the last, it purchases a greater quantity. By the first circumstance, it feeds and supplys with the means of industry its own inhabitants as cheap as the inhabitants of the producing countreys: by the last, it often feeds and supplys them cheaper. While it uses its stores to keep down any rise of provisions by the great demand occasioned on the one hand; it is ever ready on all occasions to take the advantage of a low price, to

...

1750. replenish its stores on the other. The case of Holland, therefore, under favour of an almost free communication, seems to be a case in point, where the price of necessaries and materials of manufacture are not altered in proportion to the greater or less quantity of money in Holland only. There is but one circumstance more, besides necessaries and materials, which constitutes the price of manufactures, and that is the price of labour; and as this, I think, would naturally and necessarily be determined by the price of necessaries (for to these alone in all countreys, rich or poor, labourers' labours are or may be reduced), how comes it that while necessaries are cheap, as I have supposed to be the case in Holland, labour should be dear? Is it owing to the plenty of money? No. It is owing to the dearness of necessaries when consumed by the labourer. Necessaries of all kinds (house rent excepted, which is raised by taxes), are as cheap, or cheaper, sold in Holland than in any country of Europe. But they are dear to the consumer by interposed excises. That circumstance in the case of Holland is obvious and demonstrable, because the natural and artificial price of necessaries admit of being separated and compared in a great degree. The high price is owing to this cause, and indeed it can be owing to no other. Was it owing to plenty of money, it could only be by that occasioning a greater demand for labour, and a less quantity of people. But the last circumstance can never happen to a country where the first is constantly drawing a fresh supply of people, who, besides that, are attracted by security, freedom, and constant uninterrupted employment; circumstances which, by increasing the number of labourers as the demand for labour increased, would ever keep its price in a perfect correspondence to the price of necessaries. But the Dutch, who have happily been able to afford all the other circumstances of free importation of commodities and people, together with freedom and security in all sorts of labour, have unhappily not been able to afford those people the necessaries of life and conveniences of working, free from the artificial obstructions and unnatural price arising from taxes. A thousand observations might be made to confirm this theory from the example of that country. I shall mention that of their navigation only, which is still performed cheaper than by any old nation in Europe.

21

Why? Shipbuilding is cheap, because materials are either free or but moderately taxed; victualling is cheap, because untaxed; wages are cheap, because all foreign seamen are admitted, and the quantity always exceeds the demand, be that never so great. 1750.

As to the impossibility which Spain has found in preserving and confining all the gold and silver imported from America within its own territories, it ought at least to be considered, that, whatever inclination the sovereigns of that country may have had to have done so, the only means they employed have been mere prohibition to export gold and silver; while, for centuries together, they were exporting incredible numbers of men to every corner of the universe, incredible quantities of gold and silver to every corner of Europe, and, at different periods, banishing millions of their most industrious subjects; while, by the terrors of their inquisition, they effectually prevented all fresh supplies. These considerations will make it needless to have recourse to the different prices, on the one and the other side of the Pyrenees, to account for the flowing out of gold and silver from that country into France or any other European nation.

The powerful, rapid, and constant manner in which Charles the Fifth and his immediate successors dissipated the wealth of the Indies over every corner of Europe, throws undoubtedly a confusion on this subject. But tho' it were absurd even to suppose, that, with the utmost art or industry, these treasures could have been entirely confined within the territories of Spain, yet 'tis by no means difficult to imagine how, with a moderate degree of each, they might have attracted the arts, industry, and inhabitants of the neighbouring countreys thither, in a much greater proportion than they ever did; so that Spain might have become the most cultivated and most populous, as well as the richest and most fertile country of Europe. Nor were it difficult, even from history, to show that they did so in a much greater degree than is generally imagined; till profusion, beyond even the wealth of the Indies, an infinite variety of taxes brought in to supply it, and at last national bankruptcy itself, drove away every remnant of cultivation and industry from that unhappy country, and left nothing but gold and silver to pass through it in their room.

1750. The quantities of gold and silver which France, Holland, and some other commercial countreys of Europe acquired att that period, and which they have preserved ever since, in opposition to the Hans towns and some formerly rich towns in Flanders, who have as constantly decreased in wealth as the others have increased, but have never been able to recover their trade and wealth, seems pretty difficult to reconcile with the alternate rise and fall of price in all labour and commoditys, and the flowing out or in of gold and silver according merely to its plenty or scarcity.

The instance of China seems in my opinion rather to make against it ; for though that country has constantly drained Europe of its silver, not only since the discovery of the W. Indies, but perhaps ever since the beginning of time, it is by no means a clear point, nor is it affirmed, that the price of labour and commoditys has increased in that country in proportion to this drain ; a plain proof that the mere plenty of money does not necessarily occasion a perpetual rise in the price of labour and commoditys. And I fancy it will be found, the cheap, or, in other words, the superabundant quantity of the necessaries of life, which may be attained by increased cultivation, attended with the physical impediment of distance preventing the transportation of such necessaries into other less fertile countreys, has contributed more to the keeping down the price of labour and commoditys in China, than all the treasure of Europe and the Indies has ever contributed to raise it. The physical impediment of distance you have recourse to for preserving a greater quantity of silver in Europe. It has but very little effect in the barter of silver against the light commoditys of luxury. They are both capable, particularly the first, of the easiest transportation ; and as to exclusive Companys, gold and silver is what they chuse most to deal in, for very obvious reasons. But this physical impediment of distance is a total bar to the transportation of the bulky necessarys of life from that countrey, the effect of which in keeping down the price of labour and other commoditys is obvious ; the cheapness of labour in China not being affected thus, in its trade with Europe, by being drained of its necessarys. Let us see next how it might possibly be affected, by the increased demand for the goods of

luxury diverting to that purpose those employed in the necessary arts of ^{1750.} cultivation, and consequently by diminishing the quantity or raising the price of necessaries. Now this *bad* effect may possibly be prevented in a country whose whole policy is described to be bent to encourage and promote cultivation. But without having recourse to the artificial policy of men, let it be considered, but a moment, how small the number of hands may be which is employed in China, to produce the silks, cotton, and china ware, for all Europe. Was China to be brought nearer Europe, and moral causes admitted to operate—which always, unless prevented by superior ones, will operate as strongly as physical ones—China, if, as you describe it, not less skillfull and ingenious than the nations of Europe, instead of draining them of their gold and silver, would soon find itself drained of its cheap necessaries of life and materials of manufacture, the last of which would, in consequence, be worked up by as cheap but more skilful hands.

The different manner in which the industry and cultivation of Europe was necessarily affected, soon after the discovery of the Indies, is a speculation of great curiosity, and which I should be glad to have you turn your thoughts to; the infinite variety of armys, almost all at once maintained in every corner of it, in so different a manner from what they had been before; the excessive demand there soon was for the arts of luxury, while the necessity of raising the same quantity of necessaries still subsisted, raised the price of all such labour and commoditys, in a very short time, to near a level in all the communicating countreys of Europe. But the case is different in a country where money flows in, after arts, industry, and cultivation are already established in a variety of shapes. For as that variety is almost infinite, the number of hands necessary to furnish the arts of luxury decreases, in proportion as skill and ingenuity are increased.

But to return to the question you ask: how is the balance kept in the provinces of every kingdom, but by the force of this principle, which makes it impossible for money to lose its level, and either to rise or sink beyond the proportion of the labour and commoditys that is in each province? But if the balance was kept in the manner you suppose,

1750. would it not necessarily occasion a constant reciprocal drain betwixt the Capital and the distant provinces, and a constant fluctuation of price in all labour and commoditys? Is any such thing observed to happen? The Capital has a constant balance in its favour. There, most kinds of labour and commoditys are constantly dearer than in the provinces, and a plenty of money always greater. But these effects continue constant and without variation. The only difference observable is that the Capital goes on constantly increasing in its number of inhabitants, its buildings, arts, industry, and cultivation, notwithstanding this difference in the price of labour and commoditys; for a difference there is, tho' not so great as is generally imagined.

The case, I presume, would be precisely the same with a countrey which should have a constant balance in its favour against the neighbouring nations of Europe, and with a rich trading Capital and its own provinces. Such a countrey would be enabled, by its plenty of money, to purchase, and would, (were artifiical obstructions never thrown in the way,) purchase of its neighbours all necessarys of life and materials of manufacture, always as cheap, and often, by storing, afford them to its own inhabitants cheaper, (not through policy or patriotism, but the mere effects of moral causes,) than they could be had, even in the producing countreys. By which means the price of labour would be kept low, notwithstanding the plenty of money, which, tho' ever so plenty, is never to be obtained without an equivalent. Such a country would attract inhabitants and people, by the temptation of high wages in such species of labour as require necessarily to be performed on the spot. Thus all the arts of ornament and embellishment would flourish, while the number of people increasing, added to the low price of materials and necessarys, would still further contribute to keep down the price of labour, in most things, to the level of the cheap countreys. The advantages of a rich countrey in this respect, compared with the disadvantages of a poor one, are almost infinite, and all infallibly take place, after a free communication of the necessarys of life and materials of manufacture, and an easy settlement of new inhabitants, are established. A countrey in this situation would, in some measure, be the capital of

the world, while all neighbour countreys would, in respect of its advantages, 1750. tho' not of their own, be as its provinces. Neighbour countreys could not throw in such obstructions in its way, unless it co-operated with them, as to prevent it from having all the necessarys of life, materials of manufacture, labourers, and, consequently, labour, as cheap as with them, together with a balance of treasure arising in its favour; and, notwithstanding this last circumstance, it would soon appear, that, under favour of the others, it could make up manufactures cheaper than in any other part of the world. Poor countreys, with cheap necessarys, some cheap materials, and even cheap labour in some things, do not always, nay, seldom do, and but in a few cases, work up manufactures so cheaply as in the provinces of a rich countrey, and, what is most surprising, as even in its capital. The reasons are obvious: the materials of all manufactures are various, and poor countreys, while they have some cheap, have frequently most part dearer than in the wealthy countreys; which have or may have all (witness Holland), att the constant lowest level price of their neighbours.

Poor countreys have no greater constancy in the demand for their manufactures than in the price of their materials. They have rich foreign stores only for a market, while wealthy countreys have their own consumption besides; and though this quick demand, in the first instance, tends to raise the rate of wages, yet, as it is corrected by the attraction of new inhabitants, it only produces permanently that good effect, while the want of it in poor countreys destroys the manufactures themselves, and sends out the manufacturers. Poor countreys are ever at a great loss in the article of cheap necessarys, by means of their little cultivation, which every now and then renders the price of them dearer than in rich countreys—a circumstance which the manufacturers of such poor countreys cannot long support; while rich countreys, on the other hand, by the variety of their cultivation, are rarely subject to such accidents, and are easily supplied att the level rate.

I agree with you perfectly in all you say of the absurd obstructions thrown everywhere in the way of trade, as they tend to keep up the price of labour and commoditys, and consequently to drain such countreys

1750.. of their money, which otherwise they might retain, notwithstanding its greater plenty, whether in gold or silver, or in such paper as only serves to represent, with certainty, certain portions of those metals.

As to the paper money of Britain consisting in its debts, it is certainly attended with a very bad consequence, viz. the necessity of raising, by taxes, such a quantity of money as to satisfy the stipulated annuity attending it. But I am not of opinion that it has any of the bad consequences you further ascribe to it. Such papers, like all other mortgages whatever, are only marks that such a quantity of money of a countrey, distributed into different hands, does really belong to the holders of the paper in the manner therein expressed; and in no sense is paper made equivalent to money, but as it represents it with a perfect reality and full effect. The holders of such paper have not the equivalents beyond the cash of the kingdom, but marks to show they are proprietors of such a part of its cash; no more than a mortgagee is possessed of an equivalent beyond the rental or produce of the mortgaged estate, but is entitled to a part of its produce, while the rental and produce still continues the same. Such paper money will be found, I fancy, upon examination, neither to raise nor diminish the price of labour and commoditys, but in proportion as the taxes which are raised to pay the annuity raise the price of labour and commoditys, which they certainly do most perniciously. Such paper money will be found to have as good effect in foreign transactions as any gold and silver whatever, while it continues a true representative, or, in other words, while its annuity is pay'd or obligations comply'd with; and, to our misfortune, it has produced these effects: for a very great part is actually in the hands of foreigners, who have given a proper equivalent for it; and those who are possessed of it (who, by the bye, are not the public, but the creditors of the public,) may, every day, if they chuse it, have as great quantitys of goods from abroad in return for it as for the quantity of money it represents; and were the public to repurchase it, they would find no difficulty in making it as useful, in all public negotiations and transactions whatever, as the same quantity of money which it truly represents.

I am att a loss to understand how you can ascribe the great quantity

[illegible]

which you seem to confer to of forcible ~~control~~
 violent methods you mention will of which happen
 equally certainly in a more silent form of a
 Woolly Balaam which can only happen later in
 in: High Rate of wages & High Price of goods.
 in: Disturbance of manufacturer & Government
 who later has to keep down the Low Price my
 preserve its People & manufacturer and my hope
 that its many to: Control of Human affairs for
 it will always preserve and preserve its wealth
 without any danger of losing it
 Honoring to be
 1890

Yours
 James O. Walsh

of bullion in France to the want of proper credit. Surely the government securitys of France consist of a much larger capital, and are attended with a much greater annuity than those of Britain. They are not so circulating or not so easily transferred; they are therefore not so saleable, and do not so truly represent what they are intended for. This is all the difference I can see: for saleable and transferable they still are, tho' with greater difficulty; and consequently are so far paper credit still. What you say, however, of France having such plenty of bullion in plate, churches, &c. I would admit to be true, and 'tis a proof that gold and silver may be hoarded by individuals in a country which preserves a balance of trade, without that danger of invasion or dissipation which you afterwards mention, and which are the inconveniencys of a state's hoarding. As to the paper money of the colonys, 'tis all a cheat, and, like all other cheats, has been attended with very bad consequences. Paper there is made to represent so many pounds, and to pass in payment accordingly. But as 'tis attended with no term of payment, and no fund to pay either principal or interest, according to any standard value, those nominal pounds have altered in their value, and diminished in proportion as the paper increased. According as such nominal pounds procure labour and commoditys in the countrey, and according as the state of their trade is with the mother countrey, the relation betwixt them and sterling alters—the rate of exchange against them increases; as it always will do in proportion to this uncertainty.

I must have already tired you, and shall therefore conclude with observing, that the drain of people and industry, which you seem to confine to the forcible and violent methods you mention, will I think happen equally certainly in the more silent ones of a wrong balance, which can only happen where there is a high rate of wages, and a high price of necessarys and materials of manufacture; and a government who take care to keep these att a low price, may preserve its people and manufactures, and may safely trust its money to the course of human affairs; for it will always preserve and increase its wealth, without any danger of losing it.—D^r. S^r. ever yours,

JAMES OSWALD.

Honington, 10th Oct^r. 1750.

XXXV.

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY PELHAM TO MR. MURE.

23 Oct^r. 1753.¹

Sir,

The meeting of the Parliament being fixed for the 15th day of next month, when it is expected to enter upon the publick business, I take the liberty to acquaint you, that your early attendance there will be very agreeable to your friends, and particularly, Sir, to your

Most obed^t humble Serv^t.

H. PELHAM.

XXXVI.

COPY—ANSWER TO THE ABOVE.

Sir,

I have the honour of your letter, and am happy to find you are so good as to reckon me one of those whose presence in Parl^t would not be disagreeable to you. I beg leave to assure you, that my attendance there is entirely at your command, and my voice determined in your service. If you wish to have an appearance of your friends in town this winter, I shall therefore be proud immediately to shew myself of the number; but if, as we are told, the session is to be short, and little else than the necessary business entered upon, I might perhaps be as usefully employed, were I to continue here in the country, to look after some disputed elections in the neighbouring counties, where I have a vote, and possibly some small degree of influence; tho' in that, Sir, I shall be directed by

¹ Mr. Pelham died about four months after this date, in the beginning of March, 1754.

any, the most distant hint of your inclinations. I have the pleasure to 1753.
inform you that I don't apprehend the smallest trouble in making my
own election for this county.

I ever am, with the highest respect, &c.

XXXVII.

SIR MICHAEL STEWART¹ TO MR. MURE.

Edin^r. May 2, 1754.

Sir,

Yours of the 22^d came only to hand this day. You may be very
sure, had I been in the west countrey, I would have done myself the
honour to have waited on you at Renfrew, and voted for you to repre-
sent our county the ensuing Parliam^t. But distress in my family keeps
me here; my youngest daughter being in a very bad way since Thursday
last, and not likely to get the better of her ailment. I shall always think
myself very happy to be reckoned amongst the number of your friends;
and shall omit no opportunity of cultivating the friendship of one for
whom I have an entire regard, and ever am,

Dear Sir,

Your most ob^t humble serv^t

MICH. STEWART.

N.—I did not know the day had been fixed for Renfrewsh. Election
till I got your's.

¹ Mr. Mure's opponent in his first election for Renfrewshire in 1742.

XXXVIII.

MR. CRAWFURD,¹ M.P. TO MR. MURE.

[No date—about 1755.]

Dear Mure,

I regret extremely your illness, both on your own account, and that you cannot be present at a scene that might even interest an older member than you. Don't imagine, in the state of the times, that all terminates in struggles for power. There is an ambition that soars no higher than power or wealth, however attained. There is a nobler ambition, which, tho' it also desires these objects, yet will only receive them upon honourable terms, and with the fair esteem of mankind. By this time you begin to suspect that I have opposed the subsidys,² and incline to a very small minority. You are in the right, and, if you come here at all this winter, you will think twice, and hear all, before you take a determined part. You are not, nor can you be informed, where you now are, of the real state of either men or measures—of the strange friendships and enmities, the seeming strength and real weakness, &c. &c. We had four days' debates upon subsidys, and have had several accidental topics, much fine speaking, and the utmost exertion of abilities. Pitt shines more and rises higher than ever. Your friend³ has taken some share, and, as he finds his essays not ill received, determines to continue in the same track. Tho' in no place, nor in any immediate prospect of being so, he likes his situation of all things—his habits, friendships, communication of business, and other particulars, rather to be hinted than

¹ Patrick Crawford, Esq. of Auchenaimes; was M.P. for Ayrshire from 1747 to 1754, and for Renfrewshire from 1761 to 1768. He appears, during the intermediate period, to have sat for an English borough.

² The Russian subsidy, at the commencement of the seven years' war, opposed by Pitt. See Macaulay, Crit. and Hist. Essays, Vol. III. pp. 182, seq.

³ Mr. Elliot, probably; now M.P. for Selkirkshire. See Note 1 to No. IX.

explained. I could heartily wish you had been here, and I believe you ^{1755.} would either have chosen your part right, or else —. The linnen comes on after the holidays, and I believe will not meet with any formidable opposition. I shall write you more fully about that and other things, time enough for your taking a journey, if it be necessary. You'll neither be wanted nor advised, in any degree or shape whatever, from the quarter you mention. I shall talk about you, however, for your satisfaction. Sir Hugh is busy about what you once thought of. If you should hear from your friend G. S.,⁴ his intelligence, even from his own nest, and about his own young ones, may mislead you strangely. There are alterations and new combinations every hour. You seem in a hurry to be in port, and have no sanguine expectations;—I the reverse, and yet not quite foolish either. There are about fifty removes, which you'll see in the Gazette; Oswald does not go out.

XXXIX.

MR. DAVID HUME TO MR. MURE.

[No date—1755.]

I earnestly beg of you not to allow this copy to go
out of your house till the book be publish'd.
Your attention to this is of consequence.

Dear Mure,

I have sent to Sharpe a copy of my History,¹ of which I hope you will tell me your opinion with freedom—

Finding, like a friend,
Something to blame and something to commend.

The first quality of an historian is to be true and impartial; the next

⁴ Probably George Lewis Scott, Esq. Mr. Mure's first cousin, appointed, in 1751, preceptor to Prince George of Wales (afterwards George III.) and his brothers. See Note to No. CCLII.

¹ See Note to next Letter.

1755. to be interesting. If you do not say that I have done both parties justice, and if Mrs. Mure be not sorry for poor King Charles, I shall burn all my papers and return to philosophy.

I shall send a copy to Paris to l'Abbé le Blanc, who has translated some other of my pieces; and therefore your corrections and amendments may still be of use, and prevent me from misleading or tiring the French nation. We shall also make a Dublin edition; and it were a pity to put the Irish farther wrong than they are already. I shall also be so sanguine as to hope for a second edition, when I may correct all errors. You know my docility.²

William Mure of Caldwell, Esq.
Member of Parliament,
at Glanderston,
near Glasgow.

XL.

MR. DAVID HUME TO MR. MURE.

[No date—1757.]

Dear Mure,

I hope you do not think yourself oblig'd, by saying civil things, to make atonement for the too homely truths which you told me formerly. I will not believe so. I take for granted that you are equally sincere in both; tho' I must own that I think my first volume a great deal better than the second.¹ The subject admitted of more eloquence, and of greater nicety of reasoning and more accurate distinctions. The opposition, I may say the rage, with which it was receiv'd by the public, I must confess, did not a little surprize me. Whatever knowledge I pre-

² The MS. has been here torn across and the lower part lost; but the letter either must have ended here, or with an additional line or two only.

¹ The second volume of the "History of England," here alluded to, comprised the reigns of Charles II. and James II. The first volume, referred to in the previous Letter, contained those of James I. and Charles I.

tend to in history and human affairs, I had not so bad an opinion of men 1757. as to expect that candor, disinterestedness, and humanity could entitle me to that treatment. Yet such was my fate. After a long interval, I collected at last so much courage as to renew my application to the second volume, tho' with infinite disgust and reluctance; and I am sensible that in many passages of it there are great signs of that disposition, and that my usual fire does not every where appear. At other times I excited myself, and perhaps succeeded better.

*Exul eram, requiesque mihi, non fama petita est ;
Mens intenta suis ne foret usque malis.
Nam simul ac mea caluerant pectora musæ,
Altior humano spiritus ille malo est.*²

I leave you to judge whether your letter came in a very seasonable time. I own that I had the weakness to be affected by it; when I found that a person, whose judgment I very much valu'd, cou'd tell me, tho' I was not asking his opinion —. But I will not proceed any farther. The matter gave me uneasiness at the time, tho' without the least resentment: at present, the uneasiness is gone, and all my usual friendship, confirm'd by years and long acquaintance, remains.

Pray, whether do you pity or blame me most with regard to this

² This epigram is a patchwork of several passages of Ovid, in digesting which, the historian has not been quite so happy as he usually is in the style of his own vernacular prose. The two first lines are from the *Tristia*, Lib. iv. Eleg. 1, ver. 3 and 4. The fourth line also occurs at ver. 16 of the same elegy,—coupled, however, with a different hexameter, as follows:—

*Sic ubi mota calent viridi mea pectora thyrsæ,
Altior humano spiritus ille malo est.*

David's hexameter would seem to be his own composition, in order to substitute the enthusiasm of the Muses for that of Bacchus, which last—on the present occasion at least—did not suit his convenience. His object, however, has been effected at the cost of fearful sins against the laws of quantity and scanning; whether owing to ignorance or carelessness, may be a question. The verse, as he would have it, might be corrected—

Nam simul atque meo caluerunt pectore Musæ.

P

1757. Dedication of my Dissertations to my friend the Poet?³ I am sure I never executed any thing which was either more elegant in the composition or more generous in the intention: yet such an alarm seiz'd some fools here, (men of very good sense, but fools in that particular,) that they assail'd both him and me with the utmost violence, and engag'd us to change our intention. I wrote to Millar to suppress that Dedication: two posts after, I retracted that order. Can anything be more unlucky than that, in the interval of these few days, he shou'd have open'd his sale and dispos'd of 800 copies, without that Dedication, whence, I imagin'd, my friend wou'd reap some advantage and myself so much honor? I have not been so heartily vex'd at any accident of a long time. However, I have insisted that the Dedication shall still be publish'd.

I am a little uncertain what work I shall next undertake, for I do not care to be long idle. I think you seem to approve of my going forward, and I am sensible that the subject is much more interesting to us, and even will be so to posterity, than any other I cou'd chuse. But can I hope that there are materials for composing a just and sure history of it? I am afraid not. However, I shall examine the matter. I fancy it will be requisite for me to take a journey to London, and settle there for some time, in order to gather such materials as are not to be found in print. But if I shou'd go backwards, and write the History of England from the accession of Henry the Seventh, I might remain where I am; and I own to you, at my time of life, these changes of habitation are not agreeable, even tho' the place be better to which one removes.

I am sorry my fair cousin⁴ does not find London so agreeable as perhaps she expected. She must not judge by one winter. It will improve against next winter, and appear still better the winter after that. Please make my compliments to her, and tell her that she must not be discourag'd. By the bye, Mrs. Binnie tells me that she writes her a very different account of matters; so that I find my cousin is a hypocrite.

I shall make use of your criticisms, and wish there had been more of

³ John Home, author of "Douglas," then labouring under ecclesiastical censure, owing to the publication of his tragedy.

⁴ Mrs. Mure.

them. That practice of doubling the genitive is certainly very barbarous, 1757. and I carefully avoided it in the first volume. But I find it so universal a practice, both in writing and speaking, that I thought it better to comply with it; and have even chang'd all the passages in the first volume in conformity to use.

All languages contain solecisms of that kind.

Please make my compliments to Sir Harry Erskine,⁵ and tell him that I have executed what I propos'd.

I am, dear Mure,

Your most affectionate friend and servant,
DAVID HUME.

XLI.

THE EARL OF BUTE TO MR. MURE.

Kew, Aug^t. 7, 1757.

My worthy Friend,

I must appear rude by so long a silence, after receiving so very friendly a letter; but I own I wished to see whether your voyage to Bute, and being better acquainted with the country, might make any difference in your opinion as to the person you have kindly thought of for me. Now I have both your letters before me, what words am I to make use of to express to you the warmth I feel¹ for the friendly part

⁵ See Note to No. XLVI.

¹ Among other malicious attempts to run down the character of Lord Bute, who, whatever else might be said of him, was unquestionably a man of no mean literary attainments, he was accused of not being able to spell. Upon this a recent, able, and impartial Edinburgh reviewer justly remarks, that "although, in our time, incorrect spelling is justly considered as a proof of sordid ignorance, it would be unjust to apply the same rule to people who lived a century ago." (Oct. 1844, p. 537.) The better to estimate the real value of the imputation in the present case, care has been taken, at least in the first few Letters of his lordship in this Collection, that every word should be printed exactly as it was written. It is probable that were the same rule observed with the writing of other

1757. you are acting for me. Almost a stranger to me, and you enter into all the trouble of my business, into all my interests, as if wee had from our cradles trod the paths of life together. I, who am accustomed to look up to heaven for every blessing I enjoy, place there this benefet, and behold my dear old friend as the person chose by Providence to convey it to me. I have been for many years absent from my country, uncertain of my return; no friend remaining but Will Stuart;² come to a time of life when friendships are seldom contracted, my estate hurt by a weak old man's imprudence; in this situation I fall into habitudes, followed by friendship, with the man in the world the best able to assist me, both from the goodness of his heart and clearness of his head. Don't imagine, Mure, that these are compliments or words of course. Tho' a courtier, I despise

remarkable men of that period, few of them, if tried by the standard of our orthography, would escape a similar stigma. A distinction, it may be remarked, ought to be drawn, even at this early period, between ignorance, or even mere instability of usage, and a certain caprice or affectation of singularity on the part of individuals, often chiefly observable in the most accomplished and highly educated. The orthography, for example, of Horace Walpole's *Memoirs of Geo. II.* is stated in the preface to be very anomalous, although not retained in the printing. Among the instances given are, *memoirs* and *morow*, &c. When the same distinguished wit, in his other works, writes habitually the names *Mackenzie* and *Mitchell*, *Mekinsy* and *Michel*—it can be attributed to nothing else but affectation—partly perhaps of contempt for the country to which their owners belonged. By this latter substitution of the French for the vernacular orthography, the commentator of Bentley's edition of the *Letters* has been led into the amusing enough mistake of transforming the well known Sir Andrew (then Mr.) Mitchell, our minister at the court of Frederick the Great, into a Prussian *Chargé d'Affaires* in London. (Vol. III. p. 188, June 22, 1756.) Lord Bute's *wee*, for *we*, which form he constantly uses, may be similarly accounted for. It is impossible he could here be ignorant of the common mode of spelling the word.

In so far as letters reflect the manners of the age, the best general rule would be to adhere to the literal orthography in their publication. This is rarely done. In the fac simile of Lord Chatham's writing, given in his "Correspondence," we have the word "*adressed*;" and in that of his nephew Thomas, "*effectualy*;" yet both words are *printed* in the usual form. The Bute might therefore retort the charge upon the Chatham party. The above rule has been upon the whole observed in the present Collection, though not so rigidly as the compiler could have wished.

² See No. CXVIII.

the hackney court style. I love and value you ; I hold myself greatly 1757.
obliged to you ; and from that minute I in writing think aloud to you.

As to Dunlop, the new minister³ you propose, I like much the character you have traced of him, and enter entirely into your views with regard to him ; therefore the sooner he enters into office the better.

You have mixed, my friend, your picture of Bute with very artfull colours. While I look at the desolation of my farms, the goodness of the soil—the possibility of cultivating the moors—and the lordly tenure of the whole principality comes before my eyes. But, however, I subscribe to almost every remark you make. * * * *

I would send you news, but you have all by the publick papers. Bad news ought not to be repeated. The enemy have followed the D— to Minden, where I am told the fate of that poor country is to be try'd once more ; so wee are in hourly expectation of another battle. So wee are from Bohemia. Wee have this instant received the certain and agreeable account of Loudon and Holborn having got safe to Hallifax, and that the last has taken four transports with 1000 soldiers in his passage. This is some cordial, and wee want it much.

Let me repeat once again, my dear Mure, how much I feel your friendly endeavours for me. They are, indeed, indelible in my mind. Lady Bute joins me in our best compliments to Mrs. Mure. Our best and warmest wishes attend you both and the litle ones. I am, with the greatest esteem and lasting friendship, most sincerely your's,

BUTE.

XLII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

London, Nov. 5, 1757.

My dear Mure,

I received your kind letter, and thank you again and again for all the trouble you are taking on my account. I shall be very glad to know

³ Factor or Steward.

1757. your thoughts about my kingdom when once Duulop has been there. No doubt the beginning of this session will prove very interesting. Perhaps a solemn enquiry will make it so ; and I fear much money must be given to support our only ally.¹ But in the situation Mrs. Mure is at present, I do beg you won't think of coming up till after Christmass. I shall, if ask'd, take your absence upon myself. Lady Bute's best wishes, with my own, attend you both, and Mrs. Mure's safe delivery.

Believe me, my dear Sir,

Ever most sincerely yours,

BUTE.

XLIII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Kew, Aug^t. 25, [1758.]

My worthy Friend,

A long letter from St. Clair's operator gave me the fatal account of my coal, and cut off all my future hopes ; but I, who am not young in misfortune's school, bore the blow with philosophick patience. I shall be very willing to employ what I had proposed to myself upon the coal in any improvements in agriculture that you shall judge proper.

I can only add the million of thanks I owe you for these constant instances of friendship each hour produces. You now know me, Mure, and therefore I shall only tell you they are engrav'd in my breast in indelible characters. You will long agoe have heard of Abercrombie's check :¹ wee think he has been very brave, though unfortunate. Our countrymen have gained immortal honour ; indeed, they have paid too dearly for it. However, how preferable are tears and sorrow in such a

¹ Frederick the Great.

¹ In his attack on the fort of Ticonderoga, in July of this year. His Lordship writes to Mr. Pitt, of date August 24, on this subject, in very similar terms.—Chatham Corresp. Vol. I. p. 335.

case to the blushes of indignation produced by opposite conduct. My 1758.
 friend Clerk is most happy—the right hand of his General—in which
 situation I expect, from my opinion of him, great things; and I should
 imagine the blow is striking now will efface the infamy of R—, &c.
 &c. &c. There is no news, except the confirmation of the King of
 Prussia being gone to head his army against the Russians. Adieu, my
 dear Mure. Make my warmest wishes acceptable to Mrs. Mure, and
 accept, with her, Lady Bute's best compliments.

Yours ever most sincerely,

BUTE.

XLIV.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Kew, Jany. 14, 1759.

Dear Mure,

I am much pleased with your friend's letter: I enclose an answer
 that I beg you'll send him. I spoke to Eglinton, who was to write to
 you, Peter, and Erskine, on last Thursday. I hope he has kept his
 word; he is very keen in the business.¹ I miscarried about the mares
 from Wortley's over politeness, for he would not let me have them without
 stallions and a whole studd, which would have afforded little pleasure.
 What strange things have passed since you left this! O Quando licebit
 —procul negotiis, &c. &c. Why am I doomed to climb Ambition's steep
 and rocky height, who, early in life, had the meanest opinion of politi-
 cians—opinions that maturer age and dear bought experience too well
 confirm? But I'll write at lenth when the conductor goes down. Adieu.
 My best wishes, with Lady Bute's, attend you and your most amiable
 lady.—I ever am, dear Mure, most sincerely and affect'ly yours,

BUTE.

To William Mure of Caldwell, &c. &c.
 near Glasgow.

¹ See next Letter.

XLV.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Kew, Aug^t. 30, 1759.

Dear Mure,

Be so good as to send the enclosed to Peter,¹ and assure him how much I rejoice at this beginning of success.² Since my speaking to the D—, I hear he talks of me in a manner that would tho'rily fix my determination, if that had been to do. My temper is not over patient, and I am very well content to abide by the award. I can't help thinking, however, Peter should ask him civilly for his interest, if he can prevail with himself to stand the *bourasque* that will probably follow.

I am, dear Mure, most entir'ly your's,

BUTE.

XLVI.

SIR HARRY ERSKINE¹ TO MR. MURE.Dysart, Sept^r. 5, 1759.

Dear Sir,

You are, I presume, surprised to receive this letter by any other conveyance than the post. I have desired it to be sent by a carrier, if

¹ *Scotié*, synonymous with "Patrick." See No. xxxviii.

² This, with the previous, and several following Letters, relates to the future disposal of the Ayr district of boroughs at the next General Election, where his Lordship's interests, and those of his uncle, the Duke of Argyll, seem to have been in collision. Mr. (Peter) Crawford of Auchenaimes, was apparently Lord Bute's candidate. Colonel, afterwards Lord Frederick Campbell, the Duke's. In the end, Mr. Crawford succeeded Mr. Mure in Renfrewshire; and Mr. Wedderburn, afterwards Lord Loughborough, was elected for the boroughs.

¹ Sir Harry Erskine, a Scottish politician of some distinction at this period, was second

there be such a person ; because I don't care to trust the post. You say 1759. you have been at Ayr and Irvine, and that all is well.

What I am now going to say to you, is intended for you alone, and not even to be communicated to Peter Crauford, because I am not certain of his silence. His Grace of Argyll is not a little chagrin'd at Lord Bute for this transaction. He intended, he says, Frederick Campbell² for those boroughs. He mentioned it to Lord Bute. His Lordship gave him no answer. The D. certainly intends a surprise ; I

son of Sir John Erskine of Alva, in Fifeshire. He was bred to the army, and succeeded to the baronetcy on the death of his elder brother in 1747. He represented the Ayr district of boroughs from 1749 to 1754, and the East Fife district from 1754 to 1765, the year of his death. In 1756 he was, by one of those arbitrary stretches of the Executive power, authorised by the practice of the age, deprived of his military rank, on account of his adherence to the Leicester House interest, as the opposition party originally formed by Frederick Prince of Wales was commonly called ; but was restored on the accession of George III. and died a Lieut.-General. He was an eloquent speaker, and cultivated letters and poetry with some success. The following satirical portrait of him, from the lively pen of Horace Walpole, in 1751, when he first came forward as a debater, must be taken with the usual allowance for its less favourable traits, especially where a Scotchman is concerned ; while the more agreeable features may for the same reason be considered as not exaggerated :—

“With a face as sanguine as the disposition of the Commander-in-Chief, he had a gentle plausibility of manner that was not entirely surprising in a Scotchman, and an inclination to poetry, which he had cultivated with little success, either in his odes or the patrons to whom they were dedicated. Of late he had turned his talents to rhetoric, and studied public speaking under the Baker in Essex Street,” [a debating club said (whether in jest or earnest) to have had a Baker for its President] ; “whence he brought so fluent, so theatrical, so specious, so declamatory a style and manner, as might have transported an age and audience not accustomed to the real eloquence and grace of Mr. Pitt.” [Mem. of George II. vol. i. p. 35.]

The rubicundity of Sir H.'s countenance elsewhere furnishes Walpole with material for humorous allusion. Referring to his politico-military disgrace, he says : “Sir Harry Erskine is dismissed from the army, and if you will suffer so low a pun as upon his countenance, is a ‘rubric martyr’ for his country.”—Letters, vol. iii. p. 188.

By his lady, Janet Wedderburn, only sister of the celebrated Lord Chancellor Wedderburn, first Earl of Rosslyn, Sir Harry was father of the late, and grandfather of the present representative of that peerage.

² Afterwards Lord Frederick Campbell.

1759. suspect it will be in Ayr. He has said, in confidence, that he can always disappoint Mr. Crauford, by making an offer to chuse one of the Provosts of Ayr or Irvine, Member of Parliament. I have been in great anxiety how to communicate this. If it be told to P. Crauford, it's a hundred to one that it be communicated to some one else, and then a difference will ensue between the Duke and the person to whom he entrusted himself. Nor, in that case, shall I be free from censure. Without trusting Mr. Crawford with this, you may advise him to take every possible step to prevent it, that he could take if he knew it. In the first place, I suspect, that at the next Michaelmas election there will be an attempt to overturn Mr. Crauford's interest in Ayr. Mr. Dalrymple of Orangefield, you know, made an attempt to get Irvine; he applied thro' Baron Erskine, and he thro' me, to L^d Bute, to get protection to his appeal. Perhaps, as he did not get it, he may be induced to concur in the scheme. Perhaps, if that miscarry, an offer may be made to him or to Achen-schiech to be the Member. I know no way to parry that but by Peter Crauford's getting himself chosen delegate for Ayr, and you or some other friend chosen delegate for Irvine, and in the mean time getting intelligence by spies what meetings there are going forward with any of those who may be suspected of being brought into any such negociation. I have always observed, that when councillors sign any paper containing their intentions to chuse a person Member, they think such a declaration in writing more obligatory than a verbal promise, and hardly ever recede, for fear of being exposed. Might it not be so contrived, that a letter should be written to Mr. Crauford, letting him know that they are so well satisfied with his integrity and abilities to serve in Parliament, that they are resolved to chuse him the Member, and for that effect they desire him to accept of being delegated for their town; and that they acquaint him of this so early, that he may not absent himself from his other affairs to solicit them any further, as they are determined on their choice of him? This, or some such letter, may be artfully proposed by some one of his friends in the Counsel, and then their attempt at surprise won't signify a pin. That example, when set in Ayr, Irvine may easily be induced to follow.

You perceive, my dear Willy, my anxiety that Lord Bute should not be disappointed, induces me to write so fully to you on the subject ; for I have very particular reasons, which I shall tell you when we meet, for not having it known that I have divulged His Grace's secret. Please to present my respects to Mrs. Mure. I had forgot to acquaint you, that any association to vote for a person is illegal, but a letter of the nature I propose can never be liable to any exception. Whether money is intended to be used or not, I know not.

I am, dear Sir,

Your most obedient, and most humble servant,

H. ERSKINE.

If you write to me on this subject, chuse any other conveyance than the post.

XLVII.

LORD BUTE TO MR. MURE.

London, Nov. 20, 1759.

Dear Mure,

I have writ to L^d. Dundonald, I have petitioned Lord Ligonier,¹ and received a very loose general answer ; insomuch that all the countys in the kingdom shan't make me ask another favour. If I had dream't that the Duke of Argyll or any other interest could shake you, I am the last person would have permitted you to medle in our burrough work. Here am I, abhorring all election business, immersed in one in each country. But to look back is impossible : I am bound to see it out. Never was a session demanded your attendance so little as the present.

¹ Commander-in-Chief of the Forces, and Master-General of the Ordnance.

1759. I look upon the whole to be over without a dissenting voice. My best compliments attend Mrs. Mure.

I am, my dear Mure, most entirely yours,

BUTE.

To Will^m. Mure of Caldwell, Esq. at Caldwell,
Glasgow.

XLVIII.

MR. MURE TO D. HUME, ESQ.

Caldwell, 7th May, [1760.]

My dear David,

I intended to have wrote you yesterday, but was too late for the post, so I take the opportunity of this express to tell you that I set out to-morrow for Kelburn,¹ in my way to Bute, where I shall be kept, I'm affraid, eight or ten days, and that, by the time I return, I expect and insist your honour will be true to your engagement of performing a visit to your friends here. I should have made this demand upon you sooner, but I have been moving about a good deal since I left you. I reckon myself unlucky in being obliged to be so long away; but let that be a reason for your losing less time after our return, which Mrs. Mure (who goes only to Kelburn,) will acquaint you of a day or two before it happens.

As I know great geniuses are commonly at a loss when they have any thing to do in the way of common life, I must take upon me to direct you, that you have only to take a seat in a return chaise to Glasgow, price 8^{sh}, and write me when you'll be here, and I'll either meet you with my chaise, or send it to convey you hither.

Yours most faithfully, while

WILL. MURE.

To David Hume, Esq.

At his house in Jack's Land.

¹ Seat of the Earl of Glasgow.

XLIX.

LORD BUTE TO MR. MURE.

London, July 5, 1760.

Dear Mure,

I have received both your letters, and enter most feelingly into your loss, as well as the fresh blessing God has given you in another boy, and Mrs. Mure's recovery. Wee have been indeed in great distress, and poor Lady Bute has suffered more than wee who were ill. Terrible are the agonys of this most detestable distemper; but however I bless God wee are all safe. Jean, though reduced to a skeleton, is dayly mending. I have only the dreggs to struggle with, which is want of sleep and great dejection both of body and mind, for which I swallow quantitys of the bark. I began attempting to ride yesterday. With regard to the writer, if MacMillan quit that business, I leave the choice of his successor entirely to yourself: I should do it were I on the spot, and desire no further enquiry—no other recommendation. My best wishes attend Mrs. Mure and all your family. Adieu, dear Mure.

Believe me ever most sincerely yours,

BUTE.

L.

THE DUKE OF ARGYLL¹ TO MR. MURE.

London, Feb. 10, 1761.

Sir,

It is a great satisfaction to me to be able to wish you joy of his Majesties declaration that he will make you a Baron of the Exchequer.

¹ Archibald, formerly Earl of Islay, now Duke of Argyll; brother and successor, in 1743, to the celebrated Duke John, from whom he also inherited and retained, till the

1761. This I had the honour to receive yesterday, and his Majesty was pleased farther to acquaint me, that the delay which has happened shall not be suffered to remain above three weeks. I very much approve of your intention (in case you succeeded in your application) to set up Mr. Peter Crauford in your room,² which will be very agreeable to people here; and if you meet with any body who is desirous to know my opinion of this matter, you may freely communicate my thoughts to them. I have nothing further to trouble you with, but to wish you success in all your undertakings, and to assure you of all the assistance that is in my power.—I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

ARGYLL.

period of his death, the chief direction of the affairs of Scotland. The following account of him must be taken with the customary allowance for the prejudices and satirical spirit of the writer:—"He was slovenly in his person; mysterious, not to say with an air of "guilt, in his deportment; slow and steady where subtleness did not better answer his "purpose; revengeful, and, if artful, at least not ingratiating. He loved power too well "to hazard it by ostentation, and money so little, that he neither spared it to gain friends "nor to serve them. . . . He had a great thirst for books; a head admirably "turned to mechanics; was a patron of ingenious men; a promoter of discoveries; and "one of the first great encouragers of planting in England,—most of the various exotics "that have been familiarised to this climate having been introduced by him."—Horace Walpole's *Memoirs of Reign of Geo. II.* Vol. I. p. 242.

The following anecdote is preserved, illustrative both of his influence in Scotland, and of several of the above traits of his character. A clansman, who held an office in the Excise, had been guilty of some irregularity, which had led the Commissioners to resolve on his dismissal. The delinquent, on his chief's next visit to Edinburgh, solicited his friendly interference. The Duke, anxious to serve him, but seeing the case to be rather too flagrant to admit of a direct application to the Board, took the following mode of gaining his object. He instructed Mr. Campbell to call upon him at his apartments in Holyrood House early on a certain day, which was that appointed for the Commissioners of Excise to attend his levee. On their entrance, they found the Duke in close conversation with Campbell, in the recess of a window. On seeing the Commissioners enter, the great man shook his clansman cordially by the hand, and showed him out by a private door. He then turned to the gentlemen of the Board, received them graciously, and, without the slightest allusion to his guest or his concerns, conversed with them on ordinary topics. It need scarcely be added that Mr. Campbell retained his place.

² As candidate for the county of Renfrew. Mr. Crawford (of Auchenaimes) was elected without opposition.

LI.

LORD BUTE TO BARON MURE.

London, April 15, 1761.

Dear Mure,

The fatal accident has at last happened, and the Duke of Argyll is no more. He dy'd this day at four without a pang or one hour's illness. This news will be down before the Glasgow Election, perhaps before the Dumbarton one.¹ If so, Gen^l Campbell should have Frederick chosen for one or other of those places, to give us time hereafter to look about us. If neither of the elections are over, who wee shall get for Glasgow God knows. Might not in that case Wetherburn be chose? If the General agrees to it, say every thing civil to him, and your Glasgow Provost, from me; and let them know that shortness of time does not permit my writing.

Adieu—your's,

BUTE.

LII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

London, July 2^d 1761.

Dear Mure,

I have received your letter with your double application. One of them seems made *par manière d'acquit*, because he was your relation.^{1*}

¹ Dumbarton county, previously represented by General Campbell of Mamore, now Duke of Argyll, fell to Archibald Edmonstone, Esq. of Duntreath. Lord Frederick Campbell, second son of the new Duke, retained his former seat for Glasgow. Wedderburn became Member for the Ayr district of boroughs

^{1*} Mr. Rouet probably (see next Letter). His name would seem also to have been submitted to Lord B. for the same appointment. See No. LV.

1761. You might save yourself trouble in such cases, by assuring the person at once, that, tho' L^d. Bute has the greatest friendship for you, he, in things of public concern, will neither regard your relation nor his own one minute, but turn his thoughts solely to a worthy subject. Luckily you have pitched on one of this kind in your second request; I mean Mr. Leechman, whose character and simplicity of manners I am well acquainted with, and shall therefore recommend to the King.² I have directed Elliot to write to him accordingly. I repeat once more, and beseech you would attend to it: merit and efficiency will ever weigh with me for publick office before private considerations.

Adieu, dear Mure,

Your's,

BUTE.

LIII.

MR. ELLIOT TO BARON MURE.

[No date.]

D^r. Sir,

I have just time to tell you that I received your letter, and read what you wrote to Lord Bute. I cannot think of a properer man in all respects than Mr. Leachman, and I have done him all the service in my power by doing him justice. It is really a sincere pleasure to me to contribute in any degree to the advancement of such a man, more especially when in so doing I concur with a friend. Lord Bute has already recommended him to the King. I really don't differ with you about Ruat; I think him an active friendly man, but, under his present circumstances, I can not think it would have been adviseable to advance him to be Principal, nor can I bring myself to approve of the economy of his Patron to the detriment of the University.¹ I shall write you

² Viz.—for the office of Principal of Glasgow College.

¹ This alludes to some difference between Lord Hopetoun, the College, and Mr.

more fully soon, but I have many letters for this night, and the hour 1761. presses.

D^r Mure,

Your's ever,

GILB. ELLIOT.

LIV.

LORD DESKFOORD¹ TO BARON MURE.

Huntingtower, Augt. 2, 1761.

Sir,

I send this letter by your cousin Dr. Traill,² who goes to Edinburgh, principally to wait upon you. His situation with regard to Glasgow is delicate, and I am persuaded that both now and afterwards he will be much determined by your advice ; and that you will find him a discreet knowing man, worthy of your countenance, and a credit to his friends.

I have just now received a letter from the Clerk to the Commissioners

Rouet, relative to certain claims of the latter on his Lordship, for loss sustained by the resignation of his Professorship of Church History, when he accompanied Lord Hope abroad. The misunderstanding is cleared up, altogether to the Earl's credit, in several letters from him to Mr. Mure, not necessary here to insert.

¹ James, Lord Deskfoord, succeeded his father as Earl of Findlater and Seafield, in 1764. He was an amiable, intelligent, and public spirited nobleman, and exercised considerable influence in the affairs of Scotland at this period. He died in 1770.

In early youth he is thus described by Horace Walpole, in a letter to his friend General Conway, dated Rome, 23d April, 1740. "You saw Lord Deskfoord at Geneva ; don't you like him ? He is a mighty sensible man. There are few young people have so good understandings. He is mighty grave, and so are you. But you can both be pleasant when you have a mind. Indeed, one can make you pleasant, but his solemn *Scotchery* is a little formidable."

² Dr. Traill was appointed Professor of Divinity at Glasgow, in the room of Dr. Leechman. The Baron's grandmother, wife of Sir James Stuart, Lord Advocate, was a Miss Traill.

B

1761. on the Annexed Estates,³ acquainting me of the new Commission. Formerly, when I attended there, I had not influence to do any good, as some people possessed of more power had very different plans in view from mine; and I apprehend if I was to attend now, it might be disagreeable to them, and rather interrupt business, which I daresay will not continue to stagnate under my Lord Bute's administration. I know his Lordship's intentions are good and honourable. I am therefore not disposed, in any way, to give the least opposition to those who are employed by him; and when he calls upon me to take any share in the management of publick matters, I will be very ready to give all the help I can, and will be obliged to you if you'll assure his lordship that I will reckon it an honour to be counted amongst his friends, as I sincerely am.

I told Rossie⁴ what I had said to you concerning him. He said it was the thing of all others he would like the best, and I own I think him fitter than any body else for it. I wish therefore you would mention it to my Lord Bute, and, if his Lordship approves, you can have no difficulty in carrying it into execution. It is of consequence that my Lord Bute should have some sensible people, perfectly attached to himself, employed in these sort of offices, that require making circuits through the country; because by that means a more perfect knowledge of the country is got, and impressions can easily be made in all parts of it. I intended this letter only for an introduction to my friend Dr. Traill. It has insensibly grown too long; but you will allow me to add that I am, with perfect regard and esteem, Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,
DESKFOORD.

³ The estates forfeited in the rebellions, and annexed to the Crown.

⁴ Oliphant of Rossie; see No. xciv. Note 3.

LIV.*

COLONEL EDMONSTOUN¹ TO BARON MURE.

Geneva, 16 Augt. 1761.

Dear Baron,

I write you this to introduce to your acquaintance M. Tronchin, son to a very eminent physician of this place,² who comes to study under Mr. Smith³ at Glasgow. As I have few or no acquaintances there, you'll do me a very particular favour if you'll recommend him to such people as he may reap most benefit from. As to what other civilities you may show him, he'll be in a situation to repay them to your son, if ever he shou'd come to this place. I have said nothing to you of the young

¹ Colonel James Edmonstoun, of Newton, in Perthshire. Frequent mention occurs of this gentleman in the Memoirs of David Hume, whose friendship he enjoyed, and from whom several letters to him have been published. He was also greatly connected with the Bute family, and was at this time travelling in company with young Lord Mountstuart. He appears to have been distinguished for his convivial habits, apparently one recommendation of his society to Hume. In another letter to the Baron, dated Edinburgh, 1773, he says: "I dined with the philosopher yesterday, and got myself tipsy." In a third, about the same period, from the country, announcing a present of a fine salmon, he enjoins the Baron to invite Hume to partake of it, with minute instructions to the cook as to its proper preservation and dressing.

² Tronchin the Elder had the honour of being numbered by Rousseau among his bitterest persecutors. Jean Jacques describes him, in one of his letters, as "ce scélérat Tronchin." The son became intimate in the family of the Baron, and, through him doubtless, with his cousin William Rouet, and his friend David Hume. When Hume brought Rousseau over from Paris to London, some years afterwards, he lodged in the same apartments with Rouet and Tronchin; and this coincidence formed one cause, among others, of the sudden conversion into hatred of the previous friendship of the Genevese philosopher for his Scottish fellow sage. See Lord Brougham's *Life of D. Hume*, p. 229; and the *Letters of Mr. Rouet*, Nos. CLXXXI. seq. of this Collection.

Tronchin the Younger afterwards settled at Paris, where he appears, from one or two of his letters to the Baron, dated from that metropolis, to have enjoyed a lucrative appointment; but of what precise nature is not specified.

³ The celebrated Dr. Adam Smith.

1761. gentleman—he'll speak for himself. He comes to you uncorrupted, and if he was not to see this letter, I would say a great deal more of him. Be so good as to introduce him to Mrs. Mure. There is a grab muff and tippet at Mr. Coutts's for her; you'll please present it to her; I can't use that freedom. However, allow me to make my most respectful comp^{ts} to her, and believe me to be

Your most obedient and most devoted humble servant,
JAMES EDMONSTOUN.

I told Dr. Tronchin you was a disciple of Hutchison's; he concludes from that you are a friend to the human race.

LV.

MR. ROUET TO BARON MURE.

Ratisbon, Sept. 30, 1761.

Dear Willy,

I was favoured with yours of July, about ten days ago, and, by a letter from our friend Wood¹ of the 15th, I find you and your spouse in good health, as his guests, to see the raree shows; and I now suppose you quietly returned to Edin².

I have had a copy of the absurd petition from the University to the King sent me. I daresay neither he nor Lord Bute will ever read it. But as it is the last time I shall ever trouble you upon this odious subject,² I shall give you my final sentiments upon it. . . . Perhaps it may be necessary also for you to apply to Lord Bute to get the place filled up; for I scarcely think either his Lordship, or the warmest friends I have in the College, seriously incline to litigate the point, viz. that there is really no vacancy. Though they have committed various

¹ See Note 1 to No. LXX.

² See Note 1 to No. LIII.

blunders and irregularities in their act, yet I daresay the judges would find so long a *desertion* equal to an *abdication*,—to use words which were much canvassed on a greater occasion.³

I shall leave this place to-morrow to go by Bareith, Leipzig, &c. to Madgeburg. Poor Mr. Mitchell⁴ writes me he has been very dangerously ill of a fever. He is a worthy man, and we are in great friendship. After a short stay at that Court and at Brunswick, we shall pass by our army to Utrecht, where I hope to be early in November. You really did more in my favour for the Principality⁵ than I should have asked you had I been present. I hope in God the honest man⁶ who has got it will render it impossible for me to have any views of succeeding him. These changes in *Alma Mater* have not diminished my attachment to her, but rather increased it. Best wishes to all your family, and believe me always unalterably yours, while

W. R.

XLVI.

PROVOST OF AYR TO BARON MURE.

Ayr, 9th Decr. 1761.

Honour'd Sir,

The Magistrates of this Burgh were honoured with your letter of the 4th, assuring us of the Earl of Bute's regard for this Corporation, which was extremely agreeable to the whole members of Council, who, being sensible his Lordship would recommend no person to represent this district in Parliament except one every way equal to the important trust, are ready to concur with his Lordship's proposal in making choise

³ Alluding to the desertion or abdication of his crown by James II.

⁴ British Minister at Berlin—afterwards Sir Andrew Mitchell, K.B. See Note 1 to No. CCXXXII.

⁵ Of Glasgow College.

⁶ Dr. Leechman.

1761. of Mr. Alexander Wedderburn¹ for their representative, and have ap-
 poynted me to write you this, and to assure you that, as far as their
 influence can extend, a due regard shall be payed by this burgh to what-
 ever they shall know to be agreeable to his Lordship; and, in name of
 the Magistrates and Council, to thank you, Sir, for the oblidging manner
 in which you have communicate Lord Bute's intentions, and the character
 of Mr. Wedderburn, and your own good wishes to this burgh.

I am, respectfully,

Honour'd Sir,

Your Hon^r. most obedient servant,
 DAVID BANNATYNE.

LVIII.

HON. J. STUART M'KENZIE^{1*} TO BARON MURE.

London, 15 Dec^r. 1761.

You have not satisfied me yet about Mrs. Stewart, widow of the

¹ Afterwards Lord Chancellor Loughborough, &c.

^{1*} The Honourable James Stuart Mackenzie, only brother of the Earl of Bute, took the surname of Mackenzie on succeeding to the estates of his grandfather, Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh. Born in 1719, he sat in Parliament, as member for various Scottish constituencies, from 1742 to 1780. From 1758 to 1761 he filled the situation of British Minister at Turin. On the death of his uncle, Archibald, Duke of Argyll, in the latter year, he was invited home by his brother the Prime Minister, and intrusted with the direction of the affairs of Scotland, previously under the charge of the Duke. In April, 1763, on the death of the Duke of Athol, he was also appointed Lord Privy Seal for that country. After the retirement of Lord Bute, he continued to act in both the above capacities, under the Grenville administration, up to May 23, 1765, when he was uncere-
 moniously dismissed by its leader, both from his ministerial functions and his office of state, in the face of King George III.'s promise, that he should retain the latter during his Majesty's reign. The Privy Seal was restored to him not many months afterwards; but without his previous share in the government. He would seem, however, from several

late Stewart of Ardshiel:² it seems to be a very hard case. The ser- 1761.
vants of Government, that is the army people, did in 1746 rob her of
what was her just right by her marriage contract, viz. her jointure house,
furniture, and cattle; which in fact was depriving her of what was to
enable her to live upon that pittance of jointure. The giving her £27
15:6. per ann. as the value of the land allotted for her jointure, is by no

Letters in this Collection, to have been intrusted with a part at least of his old functions
as to Scotland, by the Duke of Grafton, in 1768-9.

Mr. Mackenzie shared but little in his brother's unpopularity, and is spoken of by
writers of all parties as an amiable man, and upright and intelligent minister. The fol-
lowing voluminous, though greatly abridged, correspondence with Mr. Mure, his confiden-
tial agent and adviser, vouches both for the energy and precision of his business habits, and
the honesty of his intentions. His treatment by George Grenville, in the transaction above
alluded to, is as generally reprobated by writers and speakers of the period, as his own
loyal and honourable conduct towards his Sovereign, under the delicate circumstances of
the case, is commended. The particulars of that affair, and of the intrigues connected with
it, are described at length by himself in several of these Letters.

The following character of this gentleman, from the pen of his faithful French
secretary and friend Dutens, after an experience of 42 years, though traced with a partial
hand, is probably but little overdrawn. "Mr. Mackenzie was, of all the men I ever
knew, the one who combined the greatest number of good qualities with the fewest defects.
He was gifted with a prudence that led him to avoid all risks of committing himself, and
a judgment which pointed out the measures best calculated to insure success in his under-
takings. His great delight was to do good; his chief care to conceal it; and if he loved
distinction, it was chiefly as affording him opportunity to serve his friends. He possessed
a fund of honour and veracity, very rare in the times in which he lived; and which never
failed him in the most difficult emergencies. He was humane, charitable, and generous.
His conversation was spirited, his information extensive; his manners were both lively and
dignified; but he preferred the study of the sciences, in which he was well versed, to the
pleasures of the gay world."—*Mem. d'un Voyageur qui se repose*. Vol. i. p. 99.

Mr. Mackenzie married Lady Betty Campbell (his own first cousin) daughter of John
Duke of Argyll, but left no family. He died in April, 1800, about nine months after the
death of his wife, and, as has been said, of grief for her loss. A neat monument, with
appropriate inscription, was erected to him in Poet's Corner, Westminster Abbey, by his
secretary above quoted, in the immediate vicinity of the splendid mausoleum of his father-
in-law, Duke John.

² Stuart of Ardshiel commanded the clan of Stuarts of Appin at the battle of Culloden,
the chief not having joined Charles Edward.

1761. means equivalent to the lands themselves, and those lands stocked with cattle, poultry, &c. &c. and a house and furniture besides. You say, that if it is intended to give her relief, it may be done by a warrant directed to the Barons to pay her any sum his Majesty pleases, out of any free surplus arising from forfeitures. You mean by that a single sum, I suppose, not a yearly allowance. Explain this a little more. When a man forfeits for treason, he is *dead* in law; and yet, if I understand you right, the wife has not a title to her jointure, though her husband is no longer in possession of the estate, and consequently dead with respect to it. I take it for granted this is very sound good law, because it is so very contradictory to sense and reason. However, I beg you'll make this matter a little plainer, that the unlearned may comprehend something of it.

If you could find, for love or money, a good writing master, I should be very glad to contribute largely to his payment for teaching you that usefull art. Your letter of the 6th Dec^r which neither I nor any decypherer in the Secretary of State's office can unravel, will justify the proposition I now make you. Who, in the name of heaven, is the man you propose for Secretary to the Commissioners of the forfeited estates? His name, as wrote by you, no mortal can make out. At any rate, I have not mentioned that business to the Duke of Newcastle since my brother and I both spoke to him of it when you were here.

I have heard from Turin, in answer to my letter, recommending Milliken³ and Kendrick, your two friends. They will have all due attention paid to them there. I understand they are to go into the Academy for some months. Mr. Dutens⁴ writes me that he has had the honor to present them to his Sardinian Majesty.

When a list of presentments from the Board of Customs is sent me up, send me at the same time your opinion of the persons presented, in

³ Granduncle to the present Sir William Milliken Napier, Bart. He died at Venice in 1763. See Nos. LXXIV. and LXXXIX.

⁴ Late Secretary to Mr. Mackenzie, when Minister at the Sardinian Court, now himself Chargé d'Affaires. See Note 1 above.

order that improper persons may not be appointed. It would be proper 1761.
that the Board of Trustees for the annexed estates should issue orders to
their factors to assist in levying the new corps which his Maj^y has
ordered to be raised. I have recommended Webster to my Lord Ligonier
for a company in some of these new levies, and his Lordship has inserted
his name in the list laid before the King; so that, if there be room for
him, he will succeed. Adieu, dear Baron.

LVIII.

MR. CRAUFURD, M.P. TO BARON MURE.

London, 17th Dec^r. 1761.

Dear Sir,

I have had ill health ever since I came up, and have seen our friend
in Audley Street¹ only once. I look on him as so loaded with many
important affairs, that, from modesty and delicacy, I do not like to be
troublesome. I would sometimes write you what is passing, but suppose
you have better intelligence. Col^l Barry's attack, tho' rough and inde-
cent, on Mr. P—t, will, it's thought, have no bad effect; and, as he never
spared others, is the less regretted. The estimates already voted are
above thirteen millions, tho' we only borrow twelve. The unappropri-
ated duties on spirits, now and formerly laid on, as opened, are thought
to produce £488,000 or £460,000 clear; that on windows, from eight to
twelve, is to be a shilling; from twelve to fifteen, is 1^{sh}. 3^d; and from fifteen
to nineteen, is to be 1^{sh}. 6^d. This additional duty is supposed to produce
£154,000, or £140,000 clear. Those two duties are the funds to pay the
interest of the twelve millions. The last, in my opinion, is an improper
duty, as it falls on the lower rank of people. It's thought all business will be
over soon after the holydays. The present militia embodied, it's thought,
will be continued for three years, or end of the war, as Govern^t cannot want

¹ Lord Bute.

1761. them just now ; and, till a plan can be properly digested for ane universal Brittish militia, I imagine our countrymen will acquiesce, and not press till the natural measure takes place. After that is settled, all business of importance is over for this session. I forgott to tell you, on the motion for papers, Mr. Elliot made one of the best speeches I ever heard, and with great freedom towards Mr. Pitt, but decent and Parliamentary. Let me know if newspapers or votes are necessary to be sent to the county, or if you used to send, and where ; or, if there is any thing you think proper for me to doe, suggest it. I wish to know if you have tasted your wine, and, if it proves good, keep it full, but do not bottle it till the spring. Compliments to Mrs. Mure, and believe me always,

Dear Sir, faithfully yours,

PAT. CRAUFURD.

The loans of this year, the 4 p^{ct}. for 19 years, and one per cent. annuity for 99, are under par, by the first call being too soon made—the 23d.

Mr. Dempster,² on the report of the window tax, spoke against it, but I was not present.

LIX.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

16 Jany. 1762.

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure of your letter. I see the delicacy and difficulty about what I mentioned for Adam Bell, and, when we meet, will concert something more easy. I have ordered a newspaper to be sent to Paisley, and my votes to yourself. I shall follow the advice you give me about

² M.P. for Forfarshire.

Sandy Montgomery's¹ son, and think it right; but our friend in Audley Street² is really so loaded, or rather so much overloaded, with the most important transactions, that I am ashamed to trouble him; and, to tell you the truth, both E——n³ and the Colonel⁴ are so heedless, that I doubt if I will get them to meet and join me; and the Earl has so many demands, that he wants to throw the whole of this affair on me. This is the situation, but I beg you will not hint this to Coilsfield, or any body, as it would hurt and do no good. I shall try to do the best I can; but I doubt success, unless preferred abroad or allowed to come home.

Our reports are so uncertain that nothing can be depended on. Last week, and part of this, nothing but motions on our meeting, and changes; now all subsides or vanishes. D. of Newcastle has been ill, and twice bled yesterday, but better to-day: you must guess the events if he drops. Mr. P——t will never probably be restored, whatever you may hear, by any change. Various reports prevail about L^d. Al——e's expedition:⁵ in the city, some attempt on Cadiz suggested as practicable by Saunders, or on coast of Spain; not at first for Portugal; nor is he Gov^r of Gibraltar; evacuation of Bellisle not determined; disunion, or rather discontent among the Ministers, is supposed, from appearances; and some think our friend should stand forth and be more determined; Spanish war not dreaded, tho' it sinks credit; a strong wish and hope the Ministry will lessen our expense and exertions in Germany, and that events will arise to show that we neither can nor ought to support where it's impossible to do good.

Bargany⁶ was like to be run down at first, but has now better hopes,

¹ Alexander Montgomerie, Esq. of Coysfield, father of Hugh, twelfth Earl of Eglinton.

² Lord Bute.

³ Alexander, tenth Earl of Eglinton, afterwards shot by Mungo Campbell.

⁴ The Honourable Colonel Archibald Montgomerie, afterwards eleventh Earl of Eglinton.

⁵ Lord Albemarle's expedition to the Havannah.

⁶ John Hamilton, of; sat for the Galloway boroughs from 1754 to 1761, when he was succeeded by the Honourable Keith Stewart, who resigned in 1762, and Bargany was again chosen. The latter, in the meantime, had been returned for the county of Wigton,

1762. as the merits are with him, and it's thought John Bull will not goe against, where a majority of the Scots, and the law, is clear. These burroughs will be vacate, but the petition not made good. All I say is only conjecture for your amusement.

L^d. Bute has told me the King will probably favour L^d. Rolles⁷ in his old arrear, but must not hurry. If any demand is made, advise me, and procure or assist a little delay, till we can get it settled.

P.S.—I hear just now D. of Newcastle is determined to give up and retire. If true, I hope it will not hurt the public or our friends.

LX.

MR. HARY SPENS TO BARON MURE.

Wemyss, 22 Jan^r. 1762.

Dear Sir,

I am proposing to publish a translation of Plato's Republic,¹ and, for the greater advantage of the work, and the greater honour to myself, am desirous of having it inscribed to the Earl of Bute, but know not how to obtain his Lordship's permission, except through your means. May I therefore be allowed to beg of you this favour, among others I am troubling you with, to represent my situation and earnest desire to his Lordship? The other affairs I recommended to you I am fully persuaded have a place in your thoughts, and I hope you will be able to get something done for my brother Robert. Mr. Ruet's place at Glasgow, I hear, is now vacated by his resignation. I have some well wishers among the

but had resigned in favour of Murray of Broughton. It does not appear what was the nature of the transaction mentioned in this Letter. See No. LXVII.

⁷ So written. Qy. Rollo or Rothes?

¹ Plato's Republic, in ten Books, translated from the original Greek by H. Spens, was published at Glasgow in 1763, 1 vol. 4to.

Masters, and am extremely happy in the thoughts of that countenance¹⁷⁶² with which you are pleased to honour me. With my most respectful compts. to your Lady, &c. &c.

I am, with the greatest respect and gratitude,

Dear Sir, &c. &c.

HARY SPENS.

LXI.

MR. GLASSFORD¹ TO BARON MURE.

[No Date.]

Dear Sir,

By your favour of the 13th, I notice how intent Lord Napier is on the navigation project,² and the pains he has taken already; and indeed find he was before me in applying for a calculation of the tonnage of goods sent from Borrowstoneness, and some adjacent ports, to the West country, and from the W. country to the East coast.

From the character you give of Lord Napier, I believe his Lordship would be a proper person to be concerned in a company to carry such a project into execution, if ever it shall be advisable. It is a step of too great importance to be taken without knowing as well as possible the ground one goes on; for, even at the best, it may be uncertain work. Expences of such undertakings commonly run higher than calculations.

I am apt to think that next to none of the Glasgow and Paisley manufactures would go through the Locks, but on carts, as at present. The cartage of 15^d per cwt. or 15^s for a horse load of 12 to 14 cwt. is such a perfect trifle on linen manufactures, that no proprietor of these

¹ John Glassford, Esq. of Dugaldstone, a distinguished Glasgow Banker and Merchant, and an active and spirited promoter of all the great public undertakings connected with that city.

² The Forth and Clyde Navigation Canal, now first projected.

goods would run the least of the risques of stoppages or wetting by lighters, when they can depend on their going safe overland from Glasgow in the morning, and being at Borrowstoneness at night. The same as to the more valuable part of the goods from London.

At the same time, I believe that there would be a very great increase of the quantities of coarse or heavy articles, such as timber and plank, and also of grain and meal, and many other things.

I took the liberty of showing your letter to Mr. Ritchie;³ I showed it to no one else, nor will do it.

Perhaps you may be a little riper by the time you come to Glasgow, in judging of the expediency of taking any concern with others in executing this plan. I hope then to have the pleasure of seeing you, and that you will do me the favour of lodging in my house, as you lately gave me some reason to expect. You'll be entirely at your own freedom.

I am, with great regard, Dear Sir,

Y^r. most obed^t. and most faith^l. serv^t.

JOHN GLASSFORD.

Since writing the above, I saw Mr. Ritchie, who says he thinks the navigation project too grand an one, and might be very hazardous.

Mr. Baron Mure, Edin^r.

LXII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Glasgow, 26 Jan^r. 1762.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your favour, without date, which I received on Sunday evening, there is very little grain, planks, or timber comes from Edin^r. or Leith to Glasgow, and, from some informations I have been making yesterday and to-day, I find there is only about one-third of the tonnage of goods for and from London and Holland, carried from Leith to Glasgow, and

³ Mr. Ritchie of Busby, another leading Glasgow Merchant.

a contra, that goes to and comes from Borrowstoneness. I mean in 1762. common times. There is indeed a larger proportion of goods go at present from Glasgow to Leith to be shipped for London, on account of the greater certainty of getting convoy, than can be depended on from Borrowstoneness; as the ships from the last place now and then fall not down in time to reach the convoy. But, even as it is, there's at least a half of our manufactures that go to Borrowstoneness to be shipped. From my last, you'll notice that few of these Scotch manufactures would go through the locks, and the same as to any goods from London or Holland, except the coarsest and least valuable. So that, upon the whole, I do not think that many of the goods that are carried betwixt Edinburgh and Glasgow at present would go through the proposed locks. As for those goods that are carried by the weekly waggons and carriers, they would consist of either fine goods that come over land to Scotland from London, and other parts of England, and which will certainly always be sent from Edinburgh to Glasgow overland, or else of furniture, and a hundred different articles for private families in the two towns, that would not be sent to and fro in the new round about way. Bell's beer, Edinr. porter, and a few other articles, would probably be sent up the Frith to Carron; but the tonnage of these articles would bear a very small proportion of the whole.

We were very uneasy at Sir Walter's indisposition, but thank God he is a good deal better for these last three days. I hope his recovery will go on. I wish Mr Coutts all success in the business he came about;¹ and think the metropolis will make a good change. I say nothing of it till it otherwise comes abroad.

I am always, with sincere regard, dear Sir,
Your obed^t and faithful servant,
JOHN GLASSFORD.²

¹ See No. xcvi.

² There are various other letters from this gentleman to Mr. Mure on the same subject, relating, however, for the most part, to the distribution of the stock, and other matters of a merely technical nature.

1762. *Abstract Account of Land Traffic between Glasgow, &c. and Borowstoneness, enclosed in the above.*

Tonnage of Goods from London landed at Bor-ness, and sent by land carriage to Glasgow, Kilmarnock, Ayr, &c., for the space of 10 years back,	5688
Do. from Holland do. do. do.	1400
Do. from Glasgow by Bor-ness to London and Holland,	4500
Do. sold by Bor-ness merchants, and sent to Glasgow,	1800
	<hr/>
	13,388
Tonnage of Salt from Bor-ness to Glasgow, Greenock, Ayr, &c. for same period,	6653
	<hr/>
	20041

From which account the whole Tonnage, for ten years back, appears to be twenty thousand and forty-one Tons.

Bor-ness, 11 Jan^y. 1762.

LXIII.

THE HONOURABLE JAMES STUART MACKENZIE TO BARON MURE.

Burlington Street, 16 Feby. 1762.

I received in course your letters of the 16th, 18th, and 30th past. I like your friend the Advocate¹ mightily; he seems to have several essential good qualities, without the priggishness of a lawyer.

I have had a letter from Provost Drummond,² representing strongly against a supposed grant from the Crown to Col^l. Fraser of Lovat, of a debt due to Lovat by Glengarry, and falling to the Crown in consequence of Lovat's forfeiture. I beg you'll acquaint Mr. Drummond that I know of no intention in his Majesty to give that debt either to Lovat or Glengarry; so he may rest quiet on that head. Let him know this directly,

¹ Thomas Miller, Esq. of Glenlee, M.P. for Dumfries, now Lord Advocate. See No. III.

² Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

that he may not plague me with memorials, &c. with which he has 1762. already threatened me.

With respect to young Glengary, I have spoke to my brother about that affair, and I fancy we shall contrive to get him a commission in the army, which will be a far better thing for him than any little pension he could obtain, and will probably answer the end more effectually of removing him from any dangerous principles that might be instilled into his young mind. If my name will be of any use as one of the boy's guardians, I consent to what Provost Drummond and you have desired; but I beg I may not be understood to interfere in any thing relating to his private affairs, further than in giving my opinion in general on any point that may be asked me. You may therefore acquaint Mr. Drummond with what I have said on Glengary's subject. In Drummond's letter to me he magnifys the object in question far beyond the mark. He calls Glengary's clan 2000 men, and the number he had in the rebellion 1200; whereas I know, from very good authority, that he has not 600 men. However, let this remain between you and I: the puff of the Provost is of very little consequence.

I say nothing to you now about Mrs. Stewart of Ardshiel.³ I wish you could have found out some method of making a provision for her *with you*; but, as you can't, I must see what I can bring about here, as I really feel the poor woman's distress.

Belches will have the office of presenter of signatures, but without any additional salary or reversion to his son; the very demand of which might have lost him his place! Adieu.

³ See No. LVII.

LXIV.

THE EARL OF BUTE TO BARON MURE.

Feby. 27, 1762.

Dear Mure,

I have received your letter concerning my county election and D^r. Robertson. With regard to the first, I like extremely your making over your title to Mr. Wauchope; and, as to your plan, I hope you mentioned it to no body but me, for such things produce ideas that would not otherwise enter into people's heads. . . . I come now to D^r. Robertson,¹ and pray let him know, that, from the minute I first fixed on him for our great undertaking,² I determined to assist him in obtaining the Principal's chair either in Edinburgh or Glasgow; for that, being *otium cum dignitate*, suited extremely my views. I have accordingly, by this post, acquainted L^d. Milton with my wishes, and I make no doubt but D^r. Robertson's character, with the assistance of his friends, will make the choice easy. I must now desire you to tell me what is the annual sum will suit Mr. Robertson's convenience, and in what manner you would wish me to grant it: you know pensions are only for the King's life, or during pleasure; and tho' I hope in God our young Sovereign will have many happy years, when you and I and the Doctor are no more, yet there is a possibility of the contrary. Pray tell him to write me, and to explain the time he thinks he shall be at liberty to begin preparing materials. Adieu, my dear Mure. My best wishes, with Lady Bute's, attend you and yours.

I am ever,

Most affection^v. yours, &c.

BUTE.

¹ The Historian.² Probably the History of England. See No. CLVI. and Lord Brougham's Life of Robertson, p. 285. The Doctor was appointed Principal of Edinburgh College in the course of this year.

Is Home³ dead? He wrote to me last year about the Conservator-ship,⁴ that I could not give him, from Parliamentary reasons. I hope he is not out of humour!

LXV.

MR. GEORGE CLERK¹ TO BARON MURE.London, Feb^r. 27, 1762.

Sir,

The Duke and Duchess of Queensberry received me with that kindness which, from their former conduct, I had reason to expect.

On Monday last, his Grace introduced me to Lord Bute, as one of our Scots Trustees.² We continued in private with his Lordship for about half-an-hour, and the conversation chiefly turned on the subject of our manufactures and militia, which his Lordship seems to think will not answer at present. The next day my Lord Duke carried me to Mr. Stewart Mackenzie's. Our conversation there was generall. For both his Grace, and my good friend my Lord Advocate,³ was of opinion that nothing should be mentioned of our intended scheme, till the memoriall from the convention of Burrows should come up and be considered.

³ John Home, the author of "Douglas."

⁴ Mr. Home obtained the office in question—that of Conservator of Scots privileges at Camp Vere, in 1763. See his Life by H. Mackenzie, p. 52. This Letter, however, proves that Mr. Mackenzie is mistaken in his statement, that he (Home) "never asked any office or appointment of Lord Bute; and that it was solely at the suggestion of some of his friends, without the most distant hint from himself, that Lord Bute at last bestowed on him the office of Conservator," &c.

¹ Afterwards Sir George, grandfather to the present Right Honourable Sir G. Clerk, Bart. of Pennycuik.

² Mr. Clerk was a member of the Board of Trustees for the Improvement of the Fisheries and Manufactures of Scotland.

³ Mr. Miller, afterwards Sir Thomas Miller, Bart., and Lord President. See Note to No. III. above.

1762. As I find my Lord Bute and the Duke are on very good terms, I flatter myself with greater hopes of success; and from the manner in which I was received by Lord Bute, I apprehend I am not a little in your debt.

Mr. Elliot is still in the country for his health, but I hear, is now pretty well recovered by the aid of Dr. James's powders. Having very little access, I know nothing of the internal movements; but some yet say that our ministry is much divided. However, it is certain, that the stocks have risen considerably, and it is strongly reported that they sell just now much higher in Holland than they do here. We have here most terribly cold frosty weather, with frequent falls of snow. On Sunday night, and last Monday morning, it was deeper than I have seen it in Scotland for some years. If you have any commission that I can execute, pray favour me with your commands, and it will greatly oblige. My humble compliments to Mrs. Mure, and,

I am, with sincere esteem,

Sir, your most humble and most obed. servant,

GEO. CLERK.

LXVI.

LORD NAPIER¹ TO BARON MURE.

Edinbellie, 16th March, 1762.

Dear Baron,

By the accounts which Mr. Glassford has given you, I find it is his opinion that there may be a third of the tonnage of goods for and from London and Holland, carried from Leith to Glasgow, and *e contra*, which would, indeed, have answered all that I wanted, if he had let you know the amount of the tonnage in time of peace; as certainly in time of war

¹ Francis, fifth Lord Napier, enjoys the credit of having been the originator, or at least one of the earliest and most zealous promoters of this undertaking. See Nos. LXI. LXII.

there must be an encrease, for the reason he very justly gives. As for 1762.
 the manufactures and goods of any great value and small bulk or weight,
 I own the tonnage of them to be scarcely worth the bringing into the
 present computations, tho' it may be found afterwards that profit to the
 venders may arise by carrying them by water; but as to the bulky goods,
 such as the American Pig Iron, Tar, Mahogany, Pipe-staves, Rum,
 Sugars, Dying Stuffs and Woods, and Tobacco, of which I believe there
 may be a considerable quantity brought every year to the Clyde, and
 dispensed thro' Scotland by land carriage, which makes them come as
 dear or dearer than what is brought from London to Edinburgh, and all
 the east coast towns,—a probable guess of the amount of tonnage would
 be of great use. If, by conversation with your friends and acquaintances
 in the west country, you can pick up information as to these articles, I
 shall also endeavour to be as well informed as I can, and from the com-
 parison of the different accounts, we may form conjectures not far distant
 from the truth. I have written to one, that was formerly a servant of
 mine, to come and pass some days with me, to help me in making calcu-
 lations. He is one of the best arithmeticians in the kingdom, sensible,
 and cool headed, and as honest a man as ever lived. I have, indeed,
 taken a good deal of pains to make computations as accurately as I am
 capable of, and tho' I imagine the errors are neither many nor great, yet
 I would not trust to those made by any one man in an affair even of less
 consequence than this. As soon as we have ascertain'd them, I shall
 either send a copy of them to you, or bring them myself to Caldwell.
 I had almost forgot to beg of you to send me a note of the prices of the
 carriage of a ton from Glasgow to Edinburgh or Leith, by the waggon,
 which any merch^t in Glasgow can give you; this is necessary to shew
 the improvement as to that article. I am almost ashamed of the length
 of this, and the trouble I give you; but I hope you will pardon it. As
 the road by the Kirk of Shots can not be good at present, I was in
 hopes you would have taken this road and given us the pleasure of
 seeing you in passing.

Lady Napier, Miss Warrender, and Miss Napier, all join with me in
 wishing you would still not venture the moor-road, but come this way, .

1762. and desire their comp^{ts} to you and Mrs. Mure, to whom I make offer of mine.—I am, dear Sir,

Your most obed^t humble ser^t

NAPIER.

LXVII.

H. B. TO BARON MURE.

Dover Street, March the 26th, 1762.

My dear Barron,

I have this moment spoke with our friend in Audley Street,¹ who tells me that, in case Sir Adam² gives it up, that then Frederick Campbell is to be the man; but, if disappointed, old Buckram³ absolutely says Fred. shall not stand; so I find Fred. entirely depends upon Sir Adam's giving it up quietly, which I hope he will, as Lord Loudon has positive instructions from L^d. B. to use his utmost indeavours to make him comply; this L^d. B. desired me to write to you. I own I am very unhappy at present with this uncertainty; however, I must express my suspicions to you concerning Sir H. Arskine, who I think rather inclines to favour Mr. Wedderburn. All this may proceed from my anxiety, and, in my opinion, will entirely depend upon Lord Loudon's integrity in this affair. Surely it would be more sensible for Sir Adam (if he does give it up,) to give it up to Frederick than any other I can think on. If any money be wanting to carrie this throw, I beg you'll draw upon me for whatever you shall think necessary. Now, my dear Willy Mure, I put my whole trust in you: once more, I must tell ye, I have my suspicions.

¹ Lord Bute.

² Sir Adam Fergusson of Kilkerran, Bart. Ayrshire.

³ Lord Bute (?).

I'll not trouble you any more, but beg you'll pardon this, and be assured 1762.
of my reale love and esteem. However it may turn out, I shall always
remaine

Your faithfull servant,

H. B.⁴

LXVIII.

THE EARL OF BUCHAN¹ TO BARON MURE.

St. Andrews, March 28th, 1762.

My dear Sir,

As my son, Lord Cardross,² has been returned here for some days, he has inform'd me of the many civilitys he has receiv'd from you and your family, for which I return you my thanks; as likewise for the sollicitation you was so good as to make on his account for a Lieutenancy in the Guards, which, I am sorry to find, has not been attended with success. I think I had a very good title to ask that for him, and to expect it, as I see others with less pretensions get it. As it is, give me leave, Sir, to beg you will solicit for a company in an old regiment, which I am told you thought within your power some time agoe; with this proviso, that the regiment is not in the East Indies or America, to

⁴ Probably Hamilton of Bargany, alluded to above: No. LIX. Note 6. He was elected M.P. for Wigtonshire in 1761, but resigned in 1762, and sat for the Galloway boroughs. What the negotiation here referred to may have been, is not very apparent. Lord Frederick Campbell was now, as for many years subsequently, M.P. for Glasgow. Sir Adam Fergusson first entered Parliament as member for Ayrshire in 1774. Wedderburn was now member for the Ayr boroughs.

¹ Henry David, fifth Earl of Buchan, married to Agnes Stewart, Mr. Mure's first cousin, and father of Lord Chancellor Erskine, the Honourable Henry Erskine, &c. There is another much longer letter from Lady Buchan, soliciting the Baron's friendly services for behoof of her children. It is written under the impression that the Buchan family were, in some way not explained, obnoxious to Lord Bute or his government.

² Afterwards sixth Earl of Buchan.

1762. which I am resolv'd he shall not go, as there is a peculiarity in his constitution that must render so hot a climate immediately fatal to him. As to my son's merit,³ I shall say nothing; you know him yourself, and have access to know his character, as he has been in Ed^r all this winter. I shall therefore only add Lady Buchan and L^d Cardross's best compliments to you, and that they join with me in the same to Mrs. Mure, the Miss Mures, and all your family, and that I am, with the greatest regard and esteem,

My dear Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

BUCHAN.

LXIX.

MR. ELLIOT TO BARON MURE.

May 25, (1762.)

My Dear Sir,

I must leave it to your friends, the Chief Baron, or Baron Wynne, when they come down, to give you the history and politicks of the present crisis. Let it suffice me to tell you briefly, that His Grace,¹ somewhat out of humour, offered to resign, and it seems the offer was accepted. Lord Bute goes to the head of the Treasury; George Grenville, Secretary of State; Sir Francis Dashwood, Chancellor of Exchequer; myself succeed to Sir Francis Dashwood, as Treasurer of the Chambers; (pray don't yet quote me for this, as I cannot yet write to my friends in my county); some other changes there will be, which I believe are not yet quite arranged; some clamour, much astonishment, but no great appearance of difficulty.

You look on the bustle at a distance and speculate; it has been my fate to be always in a state of fluctuation, hitherto neither unsuccessful

³ See Note to No. ccviii.

¹ Duke of Newcastle.

with regard to our friend nor myself. I shall do any little thing in my power to give facility to your scheme in favour of H. Berkley,² whom I sincerely love. Brooksbanks I think should be treated handsomely, both as an officer of merit and as an Englishman, who for example's sake should not be considered as a foreigner. My best respects to Mrs. Mure.

D^r. Sir, your's ever,

G. E.

LXX.

ROBERT WOOD, ESQ.¹ M.P. TO BARON MURE.

Cleveland Row, 28 May, 1762.

Dear Mure,

I have by this days post recommended your friend Milliken to Geo. Pitt, at Turin, who will I hope pass him on to his brother Ministers.

² See Note to No. LXXII.

¹ Robert Wood, a distinguished scholar and antiquary, "well known," says Horace Walpole, "from those beautiful Essays prefixed to the edition of the Ruins of Palmyra and Balbec, whither he had travelled with two young gentlemen of fortune and curiosity. His taste and ingenuity recommended him to Mr. Pitt, for his private Secretary, when Minister. But the observance required by Pitt, and the pride, though dormant, of Wood, had been far from cementing the connection. Wood had then attached himself to the Duke of Bridgewater, and through him to the Bedford faction; but remaining in office when Mr. Pitt quitted, had with too much readiness complied with the orders of his new masters. His general deportment was decorous, but his nature was hot and veering to despotic."—*Mem. of Reign of Geo. III. vol. I. p. 364.*

Although, in his literary capacity, chiefly celebrated in England as the editor of the elegant work above mentioned, Wood enjoys a more extended European reputation, on account of his "Essay on the Genius and Writings of Homer." This work entitles him to a large share, at least, in originating those new opinions, relative to the great poet and his compositions, which have since obtained so extensive a vogue, especially in the German schools of classical criticism.

As Secretary to the Treasury, which post he held during Lord Bute's administration, Wood was employed in the seizure of Wilkes's papers; and, in an action of damages

1762. I have not changed any opinion I had when we talked together; how right or how wrong time will shew.

Brompton thrives apace, and Roberts' administration meets with very little opposition, except from an uncommon quantity of weeds, which my wife thinks will get the better of him. I own I differ in opinion from her, and do verily think that by perseverance he will root out this growing evil. I must confess that her argument, viz^t that for one weed pulled up two weeds grow, has some weight; but then we must consider that Robert² has been under some affliction both of body and mind; the first occasioned by a cold, and the latter by the loss of the Scotch horse, who, to the great regret of all those who had the honor of his acquaintance, departed this life lately at the Duke of Bridgewater's, where he was upon a visit. Robert I was afraid would resign upon the first shock of this news, for he has not yet learned to forget easily those who came into place with him; but time and other objects (here the weeds are of use) will get the better of this affliction. My wife joins in hearty compliments to Mrs. Mure and you. I am, my dear Mure,

Most affectionately and sincerely yours,

R. Wood.

The honorable
Mr. Baron Mure,
at Edinburgh.

to which he was exposed from that demagogue in consequence, a verdict of £1000 was awarded against him. This affair was the subject of a very keen debate in the House of Commons, on the 14th February, 1764, the longest, as Horace Walpole tells us, on the records of the House, lasting till half-past seven in the morning, and where Wood conducted himself in a very spirited manner.—(Mem. of Geo. III. vol. I. p. 362, and No. cxv. of this Collection.)

Wood resigned his Secretaryship in September, 1763, but afterwards received (as appears from No. CLXXXI. below) some other appointment, from which (in the same quarter) he is described as dismissed by Lord Rockingham in 1766. He died in 1771, aged 54.

² Apparently a Scotch bailiff or gardener, recommended to Mr. Wood by the Baron.

LXXI.

MR. WAUCHOPE OF KILDOVANNAN, M.P. TO BARON MURE.

Argyll Street, 12 June, 1762.

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure of yours of the 4th last Wednesday, informing me of the election of Bute being over, and unanimous in my favour, which is even more than, I believe, my Lord expected, from the former obstinacy of Killwhinlick. Allow me to offer you my most sincere and gratefull thanks for your good offices in it. My Lord has been pleased to raise me to a rank much beyond what I ever had any title to. I lament the want of abilities adequate to it; but it shall ever be my study to answer his Lordship's intentions, to the utmost of my power, by a faithful discharge of the trust he has reposed in me. I shall be happy in receiving any of your commands here.

I ever am, with much esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient and faithfull servant,
HENRY WAUCHOPE.

LXXII.

MR. STUART BARCLAY¹ TO BARON MURE.Goodtrees² Sep^r. 18th. 1762.

I judged it necessary, tho' in my present situation I have very little time for it, to let you know, my dear Baron, that your letter, containing a

¹ H. Stuart Barclay, Esq. of Collerny, Mr. Mure's uncle; brother of Sir James Stuart, Solicitor-General. He was appointed Under Secretary to the Board of Annexed Estates in this year, and principal Secretary in 1765.

² Near Edinburgh, now called Moredun; the seat of David Anderson, Esq. It was then possessed by J. Mackenzie, Esq. of Delvin, to whom it had been sold by Sir James Stuart in 1756.

1762. draught on your banker here, came safe to hand by this day's post. By the date of this you will find that I happen to be at a little distance from town, but a servant, who carries some family letters to the post office, shall have mine added to his charge. Mr. Chalmers shall have his expectation answered on Monday. The reason I cannot yet hurry from this sooner is, that Lord Minto is expected to pass the night here, before he sets out for the Circuit, and, as the landlord happens to be gone a trip to Perthshire, I am constituted his deputy.

By your taking no notice of the account we have had of Sir James,³ I am at a loss to guess whether you may have heard it. But this day se'nnight I saw a letter from L^d Fanny to a friend of her's here, intimating, that, before they left Spa, a French party was sent from Liege to seize Sir James, which they had actually done, and carry'd him off prisoner to Givett—that his alledged crime was the giving of intelligences underhand to the English—that she was not permitted to attend him, but that, at her most earnest intreaty, his sister Betty obtain'd the priviledge of being carry'd along—that Lady Fanny had thought it the best measure she cou'd take to hast over to London and sollicite for our interposition in his behalf; and her letter was dated from thence. What success she has had, or how things have since gone with him, we are intirely ignorant. The servant is impatient to be dispatcht; I must therefore bid you adieu.

HARY BARCLAY.

Letters addrest to me, by my new designation, cost me nothing for postage, so you may save your franks.

Please tell your sister Lizy that I cannot possibly find time to acknowledge her letter by this post, but that I hope to have more time for it when the next goes out.

³ Sir James Stuart, his nephew.

LXXIII.

THE EARL OF GLASGOW¹ TO BARON MURE.

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that I have just now an opportunity to ask your good offices in behalf of a man of worth, who has been long entitled by his merit to the notice of any worthy man in power who would choose to recommend to office a person of integrity and capacity. David Blair of Giffordland² has supported such a character for fifty years and upwards, and has brought up a numerous family of children upon a small patrimonial farm, which he has likewise improved to the outmost. Such noble efforts, in the vigour of his life, he supported by his diligence,

¹ John, third Earl of Glasgow, father of the late and grandfather of the present Earl, an amiable and high-minded nobleman, one of Mr. Mure's earliest and most valued friends, although they were not apparently very frequent correspondents. In early life, his Lordship seems to have been remarkable for a certain eccentricity of character. This may be gathered as well from the allusions contained in David Hume's Letter, of date November 14, 1742, (see above No. XII. also No. CLXXXVIII. Note 2,) as from the circumstance of his having, at a comparatively advanced age, conceived a fancy for the military profession, and purchased a cornetcy in the Scots Greys. This rank he still held at the battle of Fontenoy, although then past thirty. He had two of his fingers shot off in the action, when he is said, holding up his mutilated hand to his comrades, to have exclaimed, "So much for a cornetcy!" apostrophising the peculiar circumstances above adverted to under which he held his rank. In the "Gazette Extraordinary" of that fatal engagement, (in which two of Baron Mure's uncles, Colonel George and Captain Alexander Mure, were also wounded,) preserved in the Caldwell repositories, and containing the usual list of casualties, his Lordship's name is inserted, strangely enough, as simple "Cornet Glasgow," in the form of an ordinary surname. Nothing discouraged by the loss of his fingers, he was present and again more severely wounded at the battle of Lauffeldt in 1747. In 1764 he was appointed (probably through Mr. Mure's instrumentality, see Letter CXXI. of this Collection,) Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly, which office he held until 1772. His death took place in 1775.

² An old and respectable Ayrshire family; cadets of Blair of Blair; now represented, in the female line, by the Rev. J. C. Blair Warren, of Horkealy Hall, near Colchester, Essex.

1762. activity, and uncommon capacity for business. In the decline of his life, the expence of education, and the necessary provisions for putting his children in a way of doing for themselves, bear hard upon his narrow circumstances. One would always wish to be able to assist a man in this situation; and, as I am just now informed there is soon to be a total change of the officers of the Customs at the port of Irvine, if Giffordland, by your means, could be recommended to the office of Comptroller or Surveyor, it would be doing a thing that I dare say would have the approbation of all the gentlemen in the shire of Ayr, and lay a particular obligation upon,

Dear Sir, your's, while

GLASGOW.

Kelburn, 1st of November, 1762.

LXXIV.

MR. MILLIKEN¹ OF MILLIKEN TO BARON MURE.

Florence, Dec^r. the 5th, 1762.

Dear Sir,

It is now so long since I was favoured with your letter, that shame for having neglected so long to answer it, almost deters me from writing at all. But the value which I put upon your merit, and upon your friendship towards me and my family, and the desire I always have of the continuance of your regard, are still stronger, and will no longer allow me to delay thanking you for your friendly letter. I shall be always proud of the continuance of your correspondence. I congratulate you with all my heart upon this approaching peace, though I am afraid it will render it more difficult for me to get the commission I want than before.

¹ James Milliken, Esq. of Milliken, grand-uncle of the present Sir William Milliken Napier, Bart. died at Venice in 1763, (not in 1776, as stated in Robertson's History of Renfrewshire.) See below, No. LXXXIX.

Nothing occurs in this land of peace and tranquillity worth sending¹⁷⁶² you. You must have heard long ago of the danger our gallery was in last August by a fire, which for several hours threatened destruction to that valuable collection of curiosities. The loss, however, was not near so great as was apprehended. The ceiling of the gallery, for about 200 feet, painted all in fresco by one of the best Florentine artists of the time when it was painted, was the only thing that was entirely destroyed, as some of the best statuaries have given in a memorial to the Emperor, to prove that the Laocoon of Bandinelli, the Bacchus of Sansovino, and an antique Boar, tho' miserably broke to pieces, can be repaired again. Bianchi, the head keeper of the gallery, to whose imprudence and negligence the whole accident is ascribed, is turned out of his place; but the Emperor generously allows him a small pension of three sequins a month for life.

The Duke of Gordon has just left this for Rome. I intend to sett out soon for Venice. My best compt^a to Mrs. Mure.

I remain, dear Sir, your's,

J. MILLIKEN.

LXXV.

MR. WAUCHOPE OF NIDDRIE TO BARON MURE, WITH MEMORIAL ENCLOSED.

Niddrie, Dec^r. 11, 1762.

Mr. Wauchope presents his humble respects to Baron Mure, and is very sensible of his good will and friendship, in his obliging offer to interpose his good offices in behalf of a most unfortunate gentleman, Mr. Wauchope's first cousin.

Mr. Wauchope had some notion, when he had the honour to see Baron Mure t'other day, that some relief might have been procured for the memorialist, by means of the Court of Exchequer; but, on advising with some of Sir Geo. Seton's friends, he finds that few effects of any

1762. value which belonged to the late Earl of Winton could be made forthcoming. So he is of opinion that the only thing left for the memorialist to do in his circumstances is to throw himself at his Majesty's feet, in hopes that he will be graciously pleased to let him partake of his Royal bounty.

LXXVI.

MEMORIAL FOR SIR GEORGE SETON, BART, &c. ENCLOSED IN THE FOREGOING LETTER.

1762.

The late Earl of Winton being convicted of high treason, anno 1715, made his escape from the Tower, and got beyond seas, where he lived till the year 1752, that he died.

Sir George Seton, father to the memorialist, being first cousin to the late Earl, and his undoubted heir, had lived in England some years before 1715, and died there 1720. The singularity of the Earl's character is so well known, that it is needless to say more about it than that it had the unlucky effect of setting him at variance with several of his friends and relations, particularly Sir George Seton and his father.

By this means they were both totally ignorant of the state of his Lordship's affairs, and it is a question whether he himself was acquainted with a circumstance of great consequence, which did not appear till several years after.

Sir George Seton, upon his father's death, being then next heir to the Earl, advised him to apply to the Government for favour and redress, alledging that something worth while might be recovered, which the publick had not availed themselves of, and that if his Lordship would not consent to make an application of that sort himself, that he would authorise him to do it; but the Earl would do neither.

In 1736, Sir George, after many years' absence, came to Scotland to visit his relations, and was advised to apply in due time for a new lease of the estate from the York Building Company, as the former one, which

had been lucrative to the tacksman, was within a few years of expiring ; 1762. but he was disappointed even in this, and hitherto not a single shilling had been saved to him nor any relation of his family.

During Sir George's stay in Scotland, at this time, a very extraordinary circumstance came to light, which, had it appeared in due time, would have effectually preserved the estate entire to the heir : this was a strict entail executed by the father of the late Earl ; but, being prior to the Act for registering entails, and so not appearing in the office since kept for that purpose, the deed was unknown to the whole relations of the family.

The time for entering a claim, in virtue of this entail, being long elapsed, Sir George was advised to petition his late Majesty for redress ; and, in order to that, advice was taken of the most eminent lawyers, who all gave favourable opinions, and a Memorial was presented to the late Lord Orford, then Sir Robert Walpole, who declared it to be a most compassionate case, and approved of petitioning the King. While this was in agitation, the late Earl, being instigated by some malicious, ill designing persons, wrote a letter intimating that he was still alive, and perhaps that he repented of the rash step he had taken, or to that purpose ; but that if the King and Ministry were disposed to grant any favours, that he hoped to find grace, preferably to any other who should sue for it upon account of a distant connection with his family.

The Ministry were really well pleased with this application of the Earl's, and probably he would have found favour, and even got a pardon, had he pursued it ; but that was not his intention ; his scheme was only to defeat Sir George's purpose ; and when he found he had effectuated that, he withdrew, and never advanced a step further.

Sir George, finding that affairs had taken this turn, and knowing well the intentions of his cousin the Earl towards him, left the country in a fit of despair, and went beyond seas, where he still remains in a retired and private way, most suitable to his low circumstances, and much wore out with age and infirmities : nor has he attempted to renew any application for a redress of his singular hard fate, till, roused by the report of his Majesty's paternal affection to all his subjects, and of the many emi-

1762. nent virtues and princely qualities he is endowed with, he now proposes most humbly to lay his case before him, if he can be so happy as to find a generous patron who has access to the Royal presence: nor does he doubt of finding such a one, as he is well assured that some, who daily approach his Majesty, are ready, on all occasions, to second and promote his generous and princely intentions, and are desirous of every opportunity of displaying the growing lustre of the most glorious reign that ever graced the British annals.

Sir George relies with confidence upon the good will and protection of all generous and good men, especially of those in high rank, and who are members of both Houses of Parliament, that they will promote and concur in whatever manner of redress for his long sufferings his Majesty may be graciously pleased to allow him to apply for.

LXXXVII.

LADY DUNDONALD¹ TO BARON MURE.

Belleville, Jan^y. 8, 1763.

Dear Sir,

The disinterested notions I have of friendship, make it very painful for me to give my friends any trouble, or even to ask favours; as I always believe it must be a greater pleasure to bestow them unasked when in their power. The old saying in Scripture I admire: that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Knowing your friendly inclinations to promote the welfare of Lord Dundonald's family, has always made me

¹ Jane, Countess of Dundonald, eldest daughter of Archibald Stuart, Esq. of Torrance, and sister of the Baron's two friends, Andrew Stuart and Colonel James Stuart. She was "one of the most beautiful and virtuous women of her time. To superior talents she united unceasing attention to her domestic duties. Her manners were exceedingly fascinating, and her self-denial and benevolence truly Christian."—Wood, Peerage, Vol. i. p. 476.

averse either to write or to speak to you on that subject. I could endure 1763
 even poverty itself with patience and firmness, were there none to suffer
 but Lord Dundonald and me. I shall never be ashamed of a misfortune
 which we have not been guilty of bringing on ourselves. Our ancestors,
 indeed, may be greatly blamed for transmitting an empty title, without
 a proper estate, to make a decent appearance. However, I could forgive
 them, had I not children to suffer in the most material point, that of
 their education, which we are not in a capacity to carry on in so liberal
 a manner as could be wished. If by means of so good a friend as I
 believe you to be, we can obtain assistance for that important work—the
 education of our seven boys—I hope, when that is finished, our affairs
 will be sett to rights, and both we and our children be then better able to
 show gratitude to our benefactors. Without troubling you with apologies,
 dear Mr. Barron, allow me to recommend the affair entirely to your
 friendship and prudence, to represent it to Lord Bute, in the manner
 you think most proper. I assure you he shall never find our family
 unmindful of favours. The moderation and propriety of his behaviour in
 prosperity and affluence may be a lesson to teach me to bear adversity,
 by far the least dangerous trial of the two situations. I can with pleasure
 inform you, Mrs. Mure and the sweet children are well,² and have the
 happiness to be, with sincere esteem, Sir,

Your most obed^t and obliged humble servant,

JANE DUNDONALD.

LXXVIII.

PROFESSOR JOHN ANDERSON¹ TO BARON MURE.

Glasgow, Jan^y. 8, 1763.

Dear Sir,

I give you the trouble of this letter at the desire of Dougalston^{2*} and

² Mr. Mure was now in London.

¹ Professor of Natural Philosophy in the College of Glasgow from 1757 to 1796, and founder of the Andersonian Institution in that city.

^{2*} See Note to next Letter.

1763. John Moore,³ whom I have just left together. It is some time since an intimate friend of the Chief Baron informed me, that the King is annually to give away a thousand pounds for the encouragement of Arts and Sciences in Scotland; and I have lately heard the same thing from another quarter. I am assured, likewise, that you are much inclined to do John Moore a service. Now, if both of these pieces of information are true, it occurred to me, that you could not do him a greater service, nor do it with less trouble to yourself, than by getting a small part of the 1000£ with the title to him of Professor of Midwifery⁴ in this College. As he is perfectly well qualified for the office, the creation of it, which will be similar to what was lately done for Dr. Young in Edin⁵ will be approved of by the publick, and be a real advantage to the State, by making those persons more knowing and expert whose business it is to usher in new subjects to his Majesty. With regard to John, the profit will be much greater than five times the sum given annually in any other way. For, without interrupting the practice he already has, it will set him at the top of that particular branch in this country. It will introduce him to the largest share of business among the students, and their pay, for certain reasons, is good and ready. It will entitle his wife to 25£ a year, &c. from the Widows' Fund; and it will be a feather in his cap which will be of use to him in the ordinary course of business. As he himself is to write to you at full length by this post, and as Dougalston is to entreat our Chancellor,⁵ in the warmest manner, to co-operate with your endeavours, I shall only wish them success, and add that I ever am, with sincere gratitude and esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your most faithfull and obedient humble servant,

JOHN ANDERSON.

³ Dr. John Moore, author of "Zealeuco," &c.

⁴ This Professorship was not established until 1815.

⁵ The Duke of Montrose.

LXXIX.

JOHN GRAHAM, ESQ.¹ TO BARON MURE.Edin^r. Jan^y. 10, 1763.My D^r. Sir,

I certainly ought, and undoubtedly wou'd beg pardon, for any farther applications, but the success of this wou'd certainly give you and yours much satisfaction. It is in favours of Doctor John Moore, whose head and heart you are no stranger to. There is £1000 now appropriate annually for literary purposes in Scotland, and, if a new erection cou'd be obtain'd in the Colledge of Glasgow for a Professor of Midwifery in favours of John Moore, it would render the Medical Colledge at Glasgow very compleat. A few years agoe, this office was created in the Colledge of Edinburgh, and Doctor Young made Professor.

Doctor Moore is not anxious about a great salary; it is the getting the reputation, and, consequently, the practice, (which is of all others the most beneficial,) he aims at. No person is more qualified, as he made it his study at Paris, at London, and has practised it these ten years at Glasgow. Getting such a man into the Colledge would likewise, in my opinion, reclaim them from their present follies. This, properly represent'd by you to L^d. Bute or Mr. M'Kenzie, cou'd meet with no obstruction. As that £1000 is to be annually bestow'd, a sallary of £40 or £50 in favours of a Colledge of that dignity, and in favours of a branch of knowledge so usefull, wou'd be look'd upon as apply'd in the most proper manner. I once thought to have wrote the D. of Montrose to co-operate with you, as Chancellor; but if that can be of any use, you can get him to doe it as well as I cou'd, and his connection with me you can make use of. If there's any inacuracys in this Letter, place it to the account

¹ A cousin of Mrs. Mure; representative of the family of Graham of Dougalstone. The property was sold, about this time, to Mr. Glassford.

1763. of the Hunters. Your uncle Sandy, your wife, sisters, and kindred, all anxiously wish this scheme in favours of Moore may succeed.

Direct for me at Dougalstone.

Yours ever, sincerely,

JO. GRAHAM.

LXXX.

COPY LETTER: BARON MURE TO LORD MILTON.

My Dear Lord,

I have talked to Lord Bute and his brother of our scheme for the improvment of the Annexed Estates,¹ by providing such a number of disbanded sailors and soldiers as our funds will admit. They both seemed to relish the idea perfectly well, but wished that a plan of the particular manner proposed might be drawn up and transmitted to them, in which it might be proper to mention the number of each to be established, and the sum of money that would be requisite for such establishments. Mr. Mackenzie was to write your Lordship by last post, asking to have such a plan laid before them. I can hardly doubt of its being approved of as framed by your Lordship; only, from what dropped from Lord Bute in talking of it, I believe it would be proper it were shewn to the Chief Baron before it comes up.

I only beg leave to recommend from myself that the soldiers may be admitted to a considerable share along with the seamen, as they will be of great use in country labour and showing an example of industry.

¹ The estates forfeited in the Rebellion of 1715 and 1745, and annexed to the Crown property.

LXXXI.

LORD MILTON¹ TO BARON MURE.Edin^r. 13 Jan^r. 1763.

My Dear Baron,

I received your letter, and have sent you inclosed a copy of the plan which I transmitted to Mr. Mackenzie by the last post, for provideing the disbanded seamen, which can be immediately carried into execution, as the heritors have the houses for fishers already built. Lord Chief Baron has been confined by the gout. I went yesterday to Dalry, who is very well pleased with the design of provideing for sailours and soldiers. I was this day at a very full meeting of the Comm^{rs} who have appointed Thursday next for ripening and preparing a plan for disbanded soldiers, so as to distinguish the different items of expense; and whenever that is done, you shall have it, with such observations as occur to me.

I am, my dear Baron, most sincerely yours,

AND. FLETCHER.

LXXXII.

PROPOSAL FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF ONE THOUSAND SAILORS TO SETTLE IN THE HIGHLANDS.

1. To keep to the plan contained in the Schedule already given in to the Board, with these alterations: That the number to be settled

¹ Andrew Fletcher, Lord Milton of the Court of Session, a younger son of Fletcher of Salton, filled the office of Lord Justice Clerk, from 1735 to 1748, when he resigned that dignity, retaining his place and emoluments as judge, till his death, in 1766. His Lordship was much admired for his mild but judicious exercise of his functions during the unhappy period of 1745-6. He was the friend and confidential adviser of Archibald, Duke of Argyll, during that nobleman's administration of Scotch affairs; and continued, as appears from these Letters, to enjoy a large share in the esteem and confidence of his Grace's nephew and successor in office, Mr. Stuart Mackenzie.

1763. on the Lands of other Heritors should be limited to five hundred; and that such fishers as chuse to establish themselves there shall not have boats given them, unless the whole boat's crew be made up of sailors disbanded from the King's service. But if such mix into boats along with other fishers, they shall only have their £3 of bounty and their house rents paid for three years. So that the whole expence of this part of the establishment can hardly amount for the first year to the following sums:—

To 62 Boats for 500 Men, reckoning Eight to each boat, value £15,	£930
To 375 Married Fishers, with a bounty of £3 each,	1125
To the Rent of 375 Houses, at £1 each House,	375
	<hr/>
Total expence the first year,	2430

2. To establish upon the annexed Estate of Cromarty two fisher towns; one upon the East coast, as near as conveniently can be to the mouth of the Bay of Cromarty: and the other on the West in Loch Broom; for the accommodation of five hundred more disbanded sailors. The charges proposed as follows:

To the building 375 Houses, (the timber to be furnished from the King's estates,) at five pounds each,	£1875
To 62 Boats at £15 each,	930
To £2 value of Furniture to each of 375 Men, supposed to be Married,	750
	<hr/>
Total for whole Scheme,	5985

'Tis farther proposed to give each married fisher his house rent free, while he continues to follow his business on the King's estate, and three acres of ground contiguous to his house, free from rent for the first seven years, and at a rent not exceeding 5th. $\frac{2}{3}$ acre thereafter.

On consideration of the houses and land proposed to be given to those who settle on the Annexed Estates, their bounty is made less by 20th. than what is allowed to those who take up their residence upon the grounds of other Heritors.

That fishers who are single men, shall, upon their marriage, have the bounty of £2, with the house and land as above.

That the same favour of houses and lands should be extended to 1763. those fishers now to be settled upon the coasts belonging to other landlords, upon their chusing, at the end of three years, to remove with their boats to either of the new Establishments above mentioned.¹

LXXXIII.

DR. ROBERT SIMSON^{1*} TO BARON MURE.Glasgow, 3^d Feb. 1763.

Dear Sir,

You needed not have made any apology for not answering my letter sooner, as I immediately perceived the reason of it, when I heard of your going for London so soon after I had written.

Instead of sending a memorial or letter for Dr. Stewart, I chose rather to write this to yourself, which I shall send to Edinburgh as soon as I shall hear of your being there.

As to the value of the office, *communibus annis*, independent of the salary, in my time it was from 70£ at least to 100£ and upwards; but, to reckon it in the most moderate way, I shall suppose it only 60£ per ann.; and Mr. Williamson, I am glad, has made more this year, having, as he tells me, 54 scholars; so all that remains to be considered is how many years' purchase of this he may give me. I would not ask more

¹ There is another similar scheme, among the Baron's papers, regarding the soldiers.

^{1*} One of the most distinguished mathematicians of his age, chiefly known to the public at large as the best English editor of Euclid's Elements. He was born in Ayrshire in 1687, and appointed, in 1711, to the Chair of Mathematics in Glasgow. This Professorship he resigned in 1761, after fifty years' service, to Dr. James Williamson, under an arrangement referred to in this Letter, and which was effected through the arbitration of the Baron and of Dr. Matthew Stewart, Professor of Mathematics in Edinburgh. For the terms of this agreement, with some other particulars regarding it, see Nos. LXXXVI.* LXXXVIII.* XCIII.* Dr. Simson died in 1768.

1763. than three, and I think he should not give less than two and a half. This, I believe, will sufficiently enable you what to propose and what to accept of, and I wish it might be soon determined, as I am in great want of money to pay off some old debt of my father's I am still struggling with. Not long ago I hinted something of this kind to Lord Bute, hoping thro' his favour to obtain some small mark of his Majesty's bounty, not so much on account of the small book which, by his Lordship's allowance, I presumed to inscribe to his Majesty, as on account of my fifty years' labours and my old age. Lord Bute shewed my letter to your cousin Mr. Scott,² one of the best and worthiest friends I have, who has written to me about the affair, with the approbation of my Lord's Secretary, Mr. Jenkinson, who brought him my letter by his Lordship's order. In this letter he wanted to know what I wished, and bid me speak my mind freely; but I thought it did not become me to be particular, so I left it wholly to my Lord to determine the manner and measure of his Majesty's bounty, whether it were by a pension or a present sum; not desiring any thing that might be improper for my Lord to ask or his Majesty to bestow. I have mentioned this, as you are one of my best friends, and also that you may be on your guard as to any proposal Dr. Stewart, or any of Mr. Williamson's friends, as the Justice Clerk³ or his son, may make to you about my giving up my salary to Mr. Williamson of 72£ p^a ann. on condition of their obtaining a pension of 100£ for me from his Majesty; because, if his Majesty bestow any thing on me thro' Lord Bute's good offices, I ought not to reckon myself obliged for it to Mr. Williamson's friends, and so have no reason to quit my salary to him on that account. As Mr. Williamson told me of this design as a secret, you need not mention any thing of it; but if his friends mention the proposal to you, you will know what is proper to reply to them. I hope this shall find you after a safe journey from London, and a happy meeting with your Lady and family.

I am, with great respect and real esteem,

My dear Sir, your most obd^t affectionate servant,

ROB. SIMSON.

² See No. CCLII. Note.

³ Erskine of Tinwald.

. LXXXIV.

THE HONOURABLE JAMES STUART MACKENZIE TO BARON MURE.

Burlington St. 15 Feb^r. 1763.

Dear Baron,

I have this minute, eight at night, received a note, acquainting me that Mr. Neville, Secretary to his Majesty's embassy at the Court of France, is just arrived here with the definitive treaty of peace, signed at Versailles on Thursday last, the 10th inst. by the Ministers of Great Britain, France, and Spain. God be praised, the great and important work is done. I heartily rejoice with you upon it.

As to getting Stewart (son to him in the Exchequer,) made Secretary in W. Florida under Johnstone, by applying to L^d. Halifax—alas, alas! I could get him a bishoprick as soon.

What is going forward at Glasgow relative to Mr. Smith's¹ Chair, which I suppose is vacated by this time? I hear (tho' not from you) that the University think of the Professor of Church History² for a successor to Smith. I could wish to know with certainty how all these things are. I can't guess why you have not wrote me about them a full month ago. I should be mighty glad to do something upon this occasion for Mr. Baillie,³ brother in law to my little friend Dr. Hunter, who had my brother's promise, and who has had mine repeatedly, that he should be taken care of the first favourable opportunity that offered. Besides these promises, his situation about the Queen would naturally claim my attention, though I do not require such powerful motives to induce me to oblige him, for he is one of the worthiest men I know, and one of the

¹ Dr. Adam Smith, Professor of Moral Philosophy, who resigned his Chair, having accepted the appointment of travelling tutor to Henry, Duke of Buccleuch.

² Dr. W. Wight; afterwards Professor of Divinity. The celebrated Dr. Thomas Reid succeeded Smith in 1764.

³ The same, probably, who was appointed Professor of Divinity in 1775.

1763. most reasonable in any request he makes. I believe he is greatly esteemed at Glasgow; I am sure he is so here by the very first people.

In speaking of the Keeper of the Wardrobe, now vacant by the death of Colon^t Dougal Campbell's father, you say—"which young Campbell got lately." Pray who is young Campbell? for neither my Lord nor I know any thing of him, and we had another person for the office, so for God's sake how came this young Campbell by it? You say that in Nov^r. 1714, Walter Stirling, writer in Edinburgh, had the office; that in June, 1761, Thomas Hamilton, advocate, got it; and that Arch^d. Campbell succeeded him in 1749. These are your own words; so pray explain how the year 1749 succeeded to the year 1761, et eris mihi magnus Apollo! Adieu.

LXXXV.

THE DUKE OF QUEENSBERRY¹ TO BARON MURE.

London, March 12, 1763.

Sir,

I was yesterday morning with my Lord Bute, by his appointment, when he informed me that there would soon be a vacancy made in the Board of Customs in Scotland by the removal of Commissioner Morris to the Board here. He desired me to write to you on the subject, as he could not find time to write to you himself, and enjoined me to acquaint you, in his name, that this affair must be kept a profound secret till it is finally adjusted. He told me that many applications would certainly be made to him were it known that a vacancy was soon

¹ Charles, third Duke of Queensberry; celebrated for his patronage of the poet Gay, which caused his disgrace at the Court of George II.; also for the beauty, wit, and eccentricity of his Duchess, Lady Catherine Hyde. About a month after the date of this Letter, his Grace was appointed Lord Justice-General of Scotland; which office he held till his death in 1778, in his eighty-first year.

to happen, but that he had resolved to offer it, in the first place, to my 1763.
friend Mr. George Clerk,² in case it might be agreeable to him.

His Lordship asked me particularly about Mr. Clerk's qualifications, and you may be sure I did Mr. Clerk justice upon that subject. I added, that, if his Lordship was desirous of farther information, he might probably get it from you, who I said I believed had been long acquainted with him. He told me he was perfectly satisfied with the character I had given, and that he had conceived a good opinion of him from the little conversation he had with him here; and that he therefore desired that you would confer with him on this subject; and he wishes to know the result as soon as possible, and that Mr. Clerk will likewise keep the affair quite secret.

I am, with great esteem and regard,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

QUEENSBERRY.

LXXXVI.

MR. CHARLES JENKINSON¹ TO BARON MURE.

South Audley Street, March 17th 1763.

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to acquaint you, by Lord Bute's direction, that his Lordship has this day order'd a patent to pass, granting to you the Reversion of the office of Receiver General of the Island of Jamaica,² for

² Afterwards Sir George Clerk of Pennycuik.—See No. LXV.

¹ Now Under Secretary of State; afterwards Lord Hawkesbury and Earl of Liverpool.

² This office, at the period when Mr. Mure obtained it, was worth, by reference to documents in the Editor's possession, something less than £700 per annum. Before his death in 1776, it had risen to about £1000. After his death, Lord George Germaine, (ci devant Lord George Sackville of Minden celebrity,) then Secretary for the Colonies,

1763. the term of your own life, after the death of the present possessor. I beg you would believe, that no one rejoices more than I do at this or any other fortunate event that happens to you, for

I am, with great truth and regard,

Dear Sir,

Your faithfull hum^{ble} ser^{vt}.

C. JENKINSON.

LXXXVI.*

DR. ROBERT SIMSON TO BARON MURE.

Glasgow, 5 April, 1763.

Dear Sir,

Upon the other leaf you have Mr. Williamson's and my agreement to the submission. I am, with great respect,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ROBERT SIMSON.¹

Agreement above referred to.

Whereas, it has been agreed upon, both by communing and letters, betwixt Robert Simson and James Williamson, that, upon Robert Simson's demitting his office of Professor of Mathematics in the University of Glasgow in favours of James Williamson, he, the said Robert Simson, should retain the whole of the salary belonging to that office; and also that James Williamson should pay to him a sum of money, which sum was mutually agreed on to be left to the determination of two arbiters:

secured it, by an interim substitution of lives, for his eldest son Charles, then a minor, afterwards fifth Duke of Dorset, who held it until his death in 1841. During that period it is understood to have risen to upwards of £6000 a-year. Had Mr. Mure been equally prudent, or equally fortunate, it might have remained in the Caldwell family till 1831.

¹ See No. LXXXIII. above, and other Letters in the sequel.

to wit: of Mr. Baron Mure, chosen by Robert Simson on his part; and 1763. of Doct^r Matthew Stewart, chosen by James Williamson on his part: Therefore, we, the said Robert Simson and James Williamson, do hereby agree, and promise to stand by and fulfill what the said arbiters shall appoint to be paid by the said James Williamson to the said Robert Simson, on the foresaid account. In witness whereof, we have signed these presents at Glasgow, this fifth day of April, one thousand seven hundred and sixty three years.

ROBERT SIMSON.

JAMES WILLIAMSON.

LXXXVII.

MR. ELLIOT TO BARON MURE.

7 April 1763.

My Dear Sir,

You will by this time understand some dark hints in my former letters,¹ and why I wrote to you so ominously. Our friend² has been long tired of the anxiety, envy, and disgust of a situation, ill suited to his temper, health, or habitudes of life. The great object of the peace is obtained—the business Session over. In this state of things, he executes his long intended purpose; and in full favour, and supported by a great majority, quits his office and retires, leaving the Government in the hands he most approves of. Mr. George Grenville becomes first Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer; the two Secretary's of State continue; Lord Shelburne comes into considerable office; Fox and Sir Francis Dashwood go into the House of Peers; Duke of Queensberry, Justice General; Mr. Mackenzie his office,³ and continues to act in Scotch business, &c. &c. &c.

¹ Not preserved.

² Lord Bute.

³ A mistake. The Duke of Queensberry's previous office was Keeper of the Great Seal, which he got after the Duke of Argyll's death in 1761. The Duke of Atholl now succeeded to it, and Mr. Mackenzie got the Privy Seal previously held by the Duke of Atholl.

1763. Since our friend was determined upon this singular and disinterested conduct, he could not leave the Government in hands from whom more may be expected ; tho' if he could have been prevailed with to have bore his share, things would have gone greatly better on. I will neither add to your concern or surprise by any reflections of mine ; we, who are friends of Lord Bute's, are desired by him to concur heartily in support of this new arrangement. You will probably have a fuller account of all this. I thought, however, this note would not be unacceptable to you.

Lord Bute resigns to-morrow. The new Treasury will be appointed some time next week ; all this arrangement is made and fixed by our friend.

LXXXVIII.

THE EARL OF BUTE TO BARON MURE.

April 9, 1763.

Dear Mure,

From what you heard me drop before you left this, you will not be much surprised at my acquainting you with my having resign'd the painful situation I held ; many and many reasons occur to justify this in a prudential light ; but none of these should have had weight with me at present, if my health had permitted my continuance. The state of that made it impossible, and I yield to necessity. I have filled my office with my friend G. Grenville, whose integrity, ability, and firmness, I will be answerable for. The Scotch affairs will go on under the care of my brother, as they did under my late uncle.¹ He is to write to you, so farewell, dear Mure.

Your's most affect^{ly}.

BUTE.

Acquaint Gilb^t Eliot^s of this from me.

¹ Archibald, Duke of Argyll.

² Sir Gilbert, of Minto; afterwards Lord Justice Clerk.

Postscript to my Brother's Letter.²

1763.

My Brother refers you to my letter to you ; but what I may have to say must be deferr'd till next post, for I have not a moment left.

9th April, 1763.

LXXXVIII.*

THE REV. DR. JAMES WILLIAMSON¹ TO BARON MURE.

Glasgow College, April 29, 1763.

Sir,

Having lately signed a submission with Dr. Simson to you and Dr. Stewart, as arbiters in my affairs with him, I beg leave to give you the trouble of the enclosed memorial² upon that subject, which contains my sentiments of the matter. I wish the submission had been expressed in more general terms. But I found myself under a necessity of signing it for reasons expressed in the memorial. However, I know I am in the hands of gentlemen, who will consider the affair in its proper light. I

² In Mr. Stuart Mackenzie's hand ; his subsequent letter on the subject has unfortunately not been preserved.

¹ Among the pupils of Dr. Simson, who attained eminence in science, Lord Brougham describes Dr. Williamson as a "man of great promise, whose early death at the factory of Lisbon, to which he was chaplain, alone prevented him from following with distinction in his Master's footsteps."—*Life of Simson*, p. 482.

² The Memorial in question, which is of some length, explains in full Dr. Williamson's views of the original agreement betwixt him and Dr. Simson, to complete which this arbitration was entered into. That agreement dates as far back as August, 1761, and seems to have been merely verbal. Dr. Williamson does not admit having entered into any specific engagement as to payment of a sum of money to Dr. Simson, and considers that the small emolument accruing to himself from the arrangement, could hardly justify its exaction ; but is willing to leave everything to the arbiters. Dr. Williamson had resigned a benefice in the Church of £130 per annum, for which, he urges, even the full profits of the professorship (£72 of salary, and £60 of fees,) were barely an equivalent. See Nos. LXXXIII. &c. above.

1763. was sorry I had not an opportunity to pay my respects to you when you were last in this place, for I did not hear of your being in town till late that night before you left it. Otherways I would not have failed in my duty. But I hope to have that honour soon at Edin^r and am with the greatest respect, Sir,

Your most ob^t. and most humble serv^t.

JAS. WILLIAMSON.

LXXXIX.

MR. ROUET TO BARON MURE.

Rome, May 9th, 1763.

My Dr^r. Willie,

I have long expected the pleasure of a letter to inform me how you and all friends were, for I don't think I have had one letter from you or any of your friends these nine months. I however trouble you with a few lines, to let you know that I am in the land of the living, and that I am beginning to turn my face home-wards, though not perhaps in a very great hurry. I propose being here and in the neighbourhood till the end of this month; shall be at Venice till the end of June, and then go to Vienna, Dresden, Berlin, &c.—L^d. Stormont's being nam'd for Vienna gives me great pleasure, and will make our stay there more agreeable.

Poor Lady Northampton arriv'd here yesterday in her way to Naples, but I question much her being able to gett there; at least I am sure her disorder is past the power of climate to rectify. I hear there are some suspicions of my Lord¹ being also a little consumptive; he has been ill, and his publick entry at Venice of consequence delay'd.

Poor young Millekin's death at Venice of a fever must have shock'd his family; ² he bid as fair for long life as any body I ever saw, last Nov^{br}. at Florence. Your brother Baron Wynn has been ill at Naples, is better, but not yet return'd; as of your board, I shall do every thing in my

¹ He died in October of this year.

² See No. LXXIV.

power to serve him. I wish you could prevail upon yourself, or some 1763.
of your family, to give me a few lines; direct to Mess^{rs} Innes & Hope,
merch^{ts} in London, and they will forward your letter to me to Venice;
for after my departure thence it will be difficult for your letters to reach
me. Remember me most affect^{ly} to your spouse and sisters. I hope
every part of my little affairs with the University is finally settled; I
hate disputes, and I hope there will be none about my salary being
payable to me till their receiving and accepting of my resignation. God
bless you and all friends, and believe me unalterably your friend, while
W. ROUET.

XC.

ROBERT WOOD,¹ ESQ. TO BARON MURE.

Whitehall, 17 May, 1763.

Dear Mure,

Your affair² is done compleatly, and gone to the Great Seal. I have
ordered Richardson to call on Mr. Mure³ and deliver it to him when it
has the seal affixed. I am sorry for poor Robert, who, I fear, will not
be able to serve more. Elizabeth is in the meazles, but in a good way.
We all join in best compliments to Mrs. Mure and you.

I am, dear Mure, most sincerely yours,

R. WOOD.

XCI.

ROBERT ADAM,¹ ESQ. TO JOHN FORDYCE, ESQ.

London, 21 May, 1763.

Dear Sir,

I have at last finished, and sent you, by Captain Thomas Pringle,

¹ See No. LXX.² See No. LXXXVI.³ Hutchinson Mure, Esq. of Saxham Hall, Suffolk, Mr. Mure's uncle.¹ Robert Adam, Esq. of Blair-Adam; born 1728, died 1792; the most distinguished

1763. the designs of the Riding House.² I proposed to have shewed them to Sir Sidney Meadows and Mr. Berenger; but, in order not to delay longer, and tire out your patience and long suffering, I have laid hold of the first opportunity since they were finished, and, as I keep copys, I shall show them to these gentlemen; and if they make any remarks, *pro* or *con*, shall most faithfully transmitt them to you. I have avoided all extra ornament, and used no more than what was necessary to make the façade decent and genteel. Mr. Mure approves much of it, only says it is too little ornamented. He particularly likes my having putt the exercising pillar in the lobby, which all of the Commissioners recommended. The niches within may be formed in the rough walling, and afterwards plaistered; but many of the riding houses here have nothing but rough walling within, though I am persuaded the additional look would overbalance the expence of plaistering. I have put windows over the niches; but after the building is up, you may then judge if there won't be sufficient light, if every other window was blocked and made a pannel both without and within, especially as I have made three large windows at that end which fronts the entrance.

Mr. Mure and I have had many conversations on the extension of your scheme, and forming a complete accademy for fencing, dancing, &c. and having houses for the different masters, all formed on a regular

British architect of his time, was an intimate friend of Mr. Mure, to whom there are various Letters from him in the sequel. He cultivated his taste by travel, and, as the result of his researches on the classical shores of the Adriatic, published, in 1764, his great work on the Ruins of Diocletian's Palace at Spalatro, which obtained him an European reputation. He was appointed architect to the King in 1762, which situation he resigned in 1768—when elected M.P. for his native county of Kinross. “The worth of his character, his superior talents, and extensive acquirements,” says his French biographer, “caused his society to be much sought after. He was the friend of Hume, Robertson, Adam Smith, Fergusson, &c. and lived in habits of intimacy with many illustrious personages of his age.” He was father of the late Chief-Commissioner Adam, and grandfather of the present Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick and Admiral Sir Charles Adam.

² The Edinburgh Riding Academy. In the establishment of this institution, Mr. Mure, as appears from documents in the compiler's possession, had taken a prominent part; and was also a principal subscriber to the building.

plan; making this Riding House the centre building. If you have 1763.
considered and approve of such a plan, I would endeavour to make out
the whole for you; but I ought to have an exact plan of your ground,
so as to extend or contract my building to answer the shape of your
ground.

I don't think it is necessary for me to explain anything more of the
plans sent, as they are all figured. The rooms I call *for the gentlemen*,
at each end of the lobby, are proper for dressing and undressing in. The
closets in these rooms will hold boots, whips, &c.; and, as there is a
communication 'twixt them and the stables, in bad weather the horses
may go that way from the Riding House to the stables, and the chimneys
may be used for boiling drinks for the horses; and I would have these
rooms with Dutch clinkers. The rooms above would answer for the
clerks to keep your accounts, or for a person to sleep who has the care
of the Riding House, till such time as a proper house is built for the
riding master. But these things I only fling out as they occur. I wish
my plans may please, and you will make me happy by letting me hear
from you when they have been inspected.

I ever am, D^r Sir,

Yours very truly,

ROB^t ADAM.

XCII.

MR. ROUET TO BARON AND MRS. MURE.

Rome, June 15, 1763.

My D^r Friends,

This will be deliver'd to you by the celebrat'd *Orpheus* and his wife
(no less famous) *Euridice*, who propose to charm, by their musick, the
spirits (not in hell,) but in the Elysian fields of the Paradise upon earth,
Scotland, &c. But, seriously, the *Sig^r Felice* and his wife *Maria Doria*,
being engag'd by the gentlemen subscribers to the concert of St. Mary's

1763. chappel at Edin^r are persons every way deserving encouragement and protection. Having been very well acquainted with them at Rome, I embrac'd with pleasure this opportunity of recommending them both to your friendly countenance and protection. He has been for many years admir'd as the greatest composer in musick and best performer upon the harpsichord that we have at present in Italy. The lady, I am persuaded, will greatly surpass any thing they have heard at Edin^r these many years. Though the Baron was never remarkable for either his *luggs* or his *voice*, yet he has both these defects amply made up by my old correspondent, his other half; and I flatter myself has been so happy as to bestow these qualifications upon *others*, who have copied from the mother what they could hardly have inherited from the father.

I am, in greate truth, your ever affec^t cousin and ser^t

WIL. ROUET.

XCHII.

MEMORANDUM OF THE PRESENT STATE OF THE POLITICALL DIFFERENCES IN THE CITY OF EDINBURGH.¹

July, 1763.

The city of Edinburgh, ever since the Union, has been almost always firmly attached to the two last Dukes of Argyle, in whom they found kind and powerfull patrons, whose influence in the city, and over all Scotland, was greatly heightened by the prudent and mercifull conduct of Duke John, after the Rebellion 1715, and by the like conduct of the late Duke, and of Lord Milton, then Justice Clerk, after the 1745.

The method of managing the Councill was by committing the power to a few hands, but that was sometimes abused; for these persons, in order to take the greater merite with their patron, frequently modelled

¹ Anonymous; but drawn up, probably, either by Provost Drummond, or one of the Messrs. Coutts.

the Council so as just to have a majority and no more, as if they had 1763. valued themselves upon playing a difficult game; and sometimes they attempted to become independent of their patron.

Even in this populous city, the bottom is not broad; so that, after excluding the Squadronie, the Non Jurors, and Presbiterians of fanatical principles, there is sometimes a difficulty in finding proper persons to fill up the Council; as, by the constitution, a certain number of friends must goe out every year.

In the year 1752, the cry was to take in some merchants of independant fortune, and to turn out Mr. Kincaid, Mr. Kerr, and Mr. Keir, whose conduct had become unpopular; this was done, and William Alexander, now deceased, was chosen provost, and his two sons brought into the Council. But Mr. Alexander was no sooner in the chair, and elected Member for the city, than he set up upon an independant footing, and, as the late Duke of Argyle used to say, chose to serve him not as he himself would, but as the other pleased; and, at the end of the 1754, had so model'd the Council, that the Duke of Argyle's firm friends had but one of majority.

From the 1754, the plan followed by the Duke of Argyle and Lord Milton was to make the Council as strong as possible, and, till very lately, there has not been the least opposition in it.

Upon the death of the late Duke of Argyle, all his friends in the city flew with open arms to the patronage of the Earl of Bute, and, at the elections at last Michaelmass, the Council never was stronger; in so much, that when Lord Bute recommended Mr. Drysdale to succeed Mr. Hyndman, deceased, as one of the Ministers of the city, and when it was found that his election could not be made certain by the mode of a call from the Ministers and Elders of the Generall Sessions, joined in a collective body with the Town Council, and, voting p^r capita, the Council was so zealous to comply with Lord Bute's request, that the whole extraordinary Council of thirty three, except seven, granted a presentation to Mr. Drysdale, as patrons, a right which the Town had not exercised since the Revolution.

1763. This measure of presenting became necessary ; for, immediately upon Mr. Hyndman's death, and without consulting with the Council, who were patrons, a solicitation was set on foot in behalf of one Mr. Gibson, a popular man, and related to several persons of note in the city, with such success, that, while the Council were waiting to know Lord Bute's pleasure how to supply the vacancy, a majority of the Generall Sessions was secured for Mr. Gibson, in which even severall friends had rashly engaged.

The Town's exercising their right of patronage was highly resented by all those who dislike that mode of Church settlements, and by most of the clergy in the city, who saw their power and influence in the Generall Sessions abridged. To these were joined the Squadronie and all the dis-obliged, particularly Baillie Stewart, who is full of resentment at not being chosen Provost in opposition to Mr. Drummond. These, combining together, stirred up the fourteen Corporations, the Merchants' Company, and severall other societys, to petition to recall the presentation, and allow the old method of election by a call.

When they found the Council firm, they contributed money, and raised a declarator before the Court of Session, to have it found the Council were not patrons, and, *esto* they were, that they had taken some illegal steps in granting the presentation to Mr. Drysdale.

The Court found, last session, that the Council were the patrons, but, by the President's casting vote, delayed the other part of the process ; by which means the flame was kept up, and the last Generall Assembly were prevented from determining in favours of Mr. Drysdale, which would in a great measure have quashed the matter.

The opposition, in the mean time, mustered up every imaginary ground of complaint against the administration of the Town, in papers and pamphletts, to inflame the people.

The clergy cry'd out that the Chaplainrie of the Castle, which had always been a pastorall charge, was turned into a sinecure.

And our friends were upbraided that Lord Bute, their new patron, had taken the office of Conservator from a citizen, and given it to one who is not a merchant, without considering that Mr. Lind, who held an office

during pleasure, was secured in the full salaries and emoluments during 1763. life.

In these circumstances some of our friends were dejected and others in danger of falling off, when a new and very artfull device was lately fallen upon to distract the Council, by setting the merchants and trades at variance with one another: for the better understanding of which it will be necessary to mention somewhat of the constitution of the Council.

It consists in whole of thirty-three members, called the Extraordinary Council, whereof seventeen are Merchants and sixteen Trades; these last being made up of fourteen Deacons chosen annually from their severall Corporations, joined with two Trades' Counsellors, chosen annually by the Ordinary Council of twenty-five.

This Ordinary Council of twenty-five consists of seventeen Merchants, six Deacons chosen from amongst the fourteen, who are called Council Deacons, and the two Trades' Counsellors chosen indifferently from the whole trades; and in this Ordinary Council the merchants have a very great majority, being seventeen to eight. At the same time, in certain cases pointed out by the sett of the Town, particularly in the election of the Magistrates, the eight Extraordinary Directors have a voice.

By the constitution each Corporation sends, at Michaelmass, a leet of six persons to the Council of twenty-five, who return out of these a short leet of three, from which the Deacon is chosen. This power of shortening the leets has answered a very good purpose in curbing any factious disposition of the trades, which they are too apt to fall into when stirred up by turbulent and designing people.

The late scheme was to alter the sett of the burgh so far as to deprive the Council of twenty-five of the power of shortening the leets; that each Corporation should chuse their own Deacon without leeting at all. To obtain this, the whole Incorporations, the Merchant Company, and all the other societys who had appeared against the presentation, petitioned the Council to pass an act for changing the sett of the Town

1763. as to the leeting of the Deacons, and to apply to the Convention of Royall Burrows to have it ratified and approved of.

In this question of an extension of the power of the Trades, all our friends amongst the Trades were under a necessity to leave us in order to keep well with their Incorporations ; and, being joined with five of the Merchant Councill, viz^t Baillie Walker, Baillie Stewart, Baillie ———, Baillie Hutton, and Mr. Gibson, made a great majority for the measure ; and eighteen of them having met upon the 29th of June last, passed an act accordingly.

In this situation, and to prevent so pernicious a measure, and a general solicitation which must have ensued in the Convention of Royall Burrows, who meet the 12th of July instant, a bill of suspension was presented to and passed by the Court of Session, after a warme debate ; and, for understanding the import of that question, printed copies of the bill and answers are referred to.

The passing of the bill of suspension has been attended with this good effect, that it shutts up all questions in the Councill about that matter till after Michaelmass ; and it depends upon the future determination of the Court of Session whether any alteration of the sett of the Town is legall or competent to the Councill and to the Royall Burrows, or if it can only be done by the Legislature.

The clear intent of the scheme was to combine the Trades in one body, against our friends in the Merchant Councill ; so as that the whole fourteen Incorporations may elect Deacons at Michaelmass next, who will join in overturning the present administration ; and, if they can succeed in such elections, they will go very near to do so, and therefore it becomes extreamly proper to consider how it can be prevented.

The first step is the Ordinary Councill of twenty-five shortening the leets from the Incorporations, in which our certain friends, consisting of twelve Merchants and two Trades' Counsellors, are a clear majority, and will possibly be joined by some of the six Councill Deacons. This power of shortening the leets, and of electing six Councill Deacons out of the fourteen new Deacons, may probably procure some friends from among

them, altho' the worst may possibly happen at a time when they have 1763. been so highly inflamed.

The next step is the chuseing of three new Merchants and two new Trades' Counsellors, in which it is believed our friends may have a majority.

The next step is the voteing of the leets for the Magistracy; and, if our friends carry the Trades' and Merchant Counsellors, they must carry this also; and, least there should be any danger in losing the election of the Magistrates, the leet must consist of none but firm friends.

The last step of all is the election of the Magistrates, in which the whole Councill of thirty-three, joined with the three old Merchant Counsellors, and two old Trades' Counsellors, making in whole thirty-eight, have voices.

In this, if the fourteen Deacons are all against us, joined with five Merchant Counsellors who are certainly against us, the opposition will be nineteen to an equall number of friends, consisting of twelve of the present Merchant Councill joined with three new Merchant Counsellors, two new and two old Trades' Counsellors, so that the whole election of Magistrates may depend upon the attendance of all our friends, and the Provost's casting vote; which shews the absolute necessity that the leets for the Magistrates shall consist only of friends.

This is a true state of the case, from which it is very apparent that our friends must be supported by their patrons, and persons of influence; and funds should be provided for defraying the expense which unavoidably attends such a criticall matter, especially as the opposition have contributed large sums, and are very liberall in their entertainments.

There is one discouraging circumstance much complained of, that Mr. Kerr, the goldsmith, who holds the office of Essay Master in the Mint, of £100 per ann. during pleasure, and who has the direction of the Incorporation of Goldsmiths, was the first man who stirred up his Incorporation to petition against the presentation, and lately for the alteration of the Sett of the Burgh. Mr. Kerr should therefore be spoke to, not to overawe Mr. Taylor, the present Deacon, who, if left to himself, is disposed to be our friend, but is afraid to join our friends, because, if it's

1763. disobligeing to Mr. Kerr, he will be turned out at Michaelmass; for altho' the Deacons are chosen annually, they are generally re-elected the second year, otherwise it is reckoned a great affront.

XCIII.*

DR. SIMSON TO BARON MURE.

Glasgow College, 2^d Augt. 1763.

Dear Sir,

Just now I have the favour of your letter of the 1st. As to the several things you desire to be informed about,¹ after a proposal had been made to me in general, by a letter from D^r. Stewart at Edinburgh, to which I gave a favourable answer, he and Mr. Williamson came privately from Edinburgh, and sent for me at night to Mrs. Tennent's, where Mr. Williamson and I made a verbal agreement; and of his own accord he offered to give me a sum of money, besides my retaining the whole salary; and as to the particular sum, he himself proposed that it should be left to the decision of two arbiters, and, at the same time, named you and D^r. Stewart,² of whom he desired me to choose one and he would take the other; and, as D^r. Stewart was his good friend, I left him for Mr. Williamson, by choosing you on my part.

As to the annual perquisites, D^r. Williamson had last Session at least fifty scholars, and the fees are at the least 30^{sh}. The year before he had not quite so many, but at least so many as would make up 60£ among them. And I have had often much more, never less; so that I thought 60£ was as moderate an estimate of the perquisites as I could make. Mr. James Buchanan frankly offered to teach for me without any consideration; but, to be just to him, I allowed him the half of the perquisites for his labour. I see no difficulty can arise; for D^r. Stewart himself knows the bargain that was made, and the number of scholars I mentioned was told me by D^r. Williamson. I wish the affair were soon ended, as I want the money. I am, with sincere respect,

Dear Sir, your most obed^t. servant,ROB^t. SIMSON.

¹ In explanation of No. LXXXVIII.* Note 2.

² See Note to No. CVI.

XCIV.

MR. STUART MACKENZIE, LORD PRIVY SEAL, TO BARON MURE.

Castle Menzies, 4th August, 1763.

Dear Baron,

I have received yours of the 30th past, with the inclosed from John Home,¹ mentioning my brother's former intention of giving *Fingall*² the office of Inspector-General (or whatever it may be called,) of the Annexed Estates; but Home entirely mistakes the idea we had for Rossie,³ for I did not want to create a place for *the man*, but to find a man well qualified for *the office*, which I thought would be of great utility to the Annexed Estates, and to this country in general. Rossie's skill in those matters, added to his being a man of fortune and consideration in the country, would, I imagined, lay a foundation for many improvements, and at the same time give weight to the carrying whatever he might propose. I had by the same post a letter from my brother, reminding me of his having promis'd *Fingall* some office in that way, and I have since informed him how this matter stands, and what our idea (meaning myself, L^d Milton, and you,) was of this affair; viz. to appoint a gentleman of fortune and consideration in the country, skilled in improvements, to plan and supervise those he might be able to suggest to the Board; but that if he (my brother) liked to have the thing put in another shape, and made a sinecure of for *Fingall*, (which it would infallibly be if he got it,) we would see about it; so I shall wait to hear what he says on the subject. Till the point is cleared up, we need not go any farther in it with the Commissioners. Pray acquaint L^d Milton with what I have said. Adieu.

By my last letter I learn that Mr. Pitt now flatly denies many cir-

¹ Author of *Douglas*.

² James Macpherson, probably; editor of "*Ossian*."

³ Mr. Oliphant of Rossie; afterwards Postmaster-General of Scotland.

1763. cumstances that passed at his *interview*,⁴ and says that he was all moderation upon that occasion. Perhaps the plan he *humbly* offered he thinks a very modest one. Adieu.

XCV.

MR. DAVID HUME TO BARON MURE.

Lisle Street, 1 Sept. 1763.

My dear Baron,

As I am not sure where you are, nor whether this direction be right, I am obliged to speak to you with reserve both of public affairs and of my own. Of the latter I shall only say, that, notwithstanding of my first reluctance, I am entirely reconciled to my present situation, and have a great prepossession, or rather indeed a great esteem and affection, for the person¹ and family whom I am to accompany to France. The prospect of my being Secretary to the Embassy is neither very distant nor is it immediate; but Lord Hertford will certainly, before our departure, obtain a settlement for me for life, which, at any event, will improve my fortune, and is a great pledge of his friendship and regard. I have consulted Elliot, Sir Harry,² Oswald, and all our friends of that administration. The former said to me that my situation was, taking all its circumstances, the most wonderful event in the world: I was now a person clean and white as the driven snow, and that, were I to be proposed for the see of Lambeth, no objections could henceforth be made to me. What makes the matter more extraordinary, is, that the idea first came into my patron's head, without the suggestion of any one mortal.

You must have heard of the late most astonishing events with regard

⁴ With King George III.?

¹ Lord Hertford, Ambassador to Paris.

² Sir Harry Erskine.

to public affairs. Yesterday, Lord Bute had a pretty large company dining with him, to whom he gave an account of the whole transaction, and desired them to publish it. One of them, a friend of mine, as soon as he went home, took it down in writing, of which he gave me a copy, and which I transmit to you.³ He is a military man, and his style is not elegant; but I am sure, from another certain authority, that the account is in the main just, only I have reason to think that Lord Halifax was proscribed along with the rest: at least he said so yesterday to a friend of mine. I wish this high spirit of his M. may be supported; but, *Femme qui écoute et ville qui parle sont bientôt rendues*. Lord Bute goes abroad very soon. Some pretend that the present administration is more enraged against him than is the opposition—on account of his taking this important step without consulting them. Never, in any history, was there so curious a scene; nor was there ever so formidable a demagogue as this man.⁴ Lord Sandwich, it is said, will be Secretary (for some weeks): our friend Wood is so at present. Many of the leading men in the Opposition were left out in Mr. Pitt's plan; which it is thought will breed dissensions among them.

I dined yesterday with Lord Chesterfield, along with Collonel Irwin. The Collonel made an apology for our arriving so late, on account of his being detained at Court. "At Court," said my Lord, "I should be glad to know what place that is!"

Be so good as to mark my affectionate regards to Mrs. Mure and your sisters: and believe me to be, with the greatest sincerity,

Dear Mure, your's,

D. H.

P.S.—We set out in a fortnight or three weeks; so I shall not expect to hear from you.

P.S.—I left poor Blacklocke⁵ as a legacy upon you: which you was

³ The inclosure has not been preserved.

⁴ Doubtful whether Pitt or Wilkes; probably the former.

⁵ Thomas Blacklock, the poet; celebrated both for the excellence of his genius and

1763. so good as to accept; but, by some letters I have since received, I am much afraid any settlement in the church will be equally unhappy for him. Please consult with George Clerk on that head.

XCVI.

MR. JAMES COUTTS¹ TO BARON MURE.

Sheffield, 9th Sept. 1763.

My D^r. Sir,

I wrote to Sir John Stuart from Scarborough, the contents of which he would no doubt communicate to you, since which I have received a letter from George Drummond, telling me that he was desired by Lord Milton, and also by you, before he left town, to write me to lay my commands on Mr. Stephen to be a Magistrate. I had also by the same post a letter from Lord Milton, desiring that I would write to Mr. Stephen, both which I have answered, and have desired Mr. Drummond to shew his letter to you, which I shall be glad to hear, by a line, meets with your approbation; and I think, if you will take the trouble to shew it to Mr. Mackenzie (as of yourself), it may be of use to me. Notwithstanding I was so much obliged to Mr. M. for bringing me into Parliament, I do not think (but from what reason I know not) that he has that opinion and confidence in me he ought; and, allow me to say, even that I deserve; but his prejudice I must leave to time to remove, which must always happen, when people of good hearts have intercourse

the singular circumstances under which it was cultivated. Though not born blind, as stated in some accounts, he lost his sight when an infant of six months old, by the small-pox. Having, by his talents, attracted notice and patronage, he was educated for the church, and appointed, in 1762, minister of Kirkcudbright; but, not giving satisfaction to his parishioners, he resigned his charge in consideration of a small annuity. It is to this circumstance that Hume alludes: cautioning Mr. Mure against any view of providing for him by another similar appointment.

¹ M.P. for the city of Edinburgh; founder of the great house of Coutts & Co. Strand, London.

together. I have sometimes thought that his prejudices against, or want 1763.
of attention to me (neither of which, by the by, I look upon to be very great), have arisen from some insidious suggestions of Lord Milton; as, tho' his Lordship expressed a very strong regard for me at my being proposed Member by my Lord B., he has constantly since behaved in a very different manner, which I wou'd despise, and think below my notice, if his patrons were not such as I believe I will always be thoroughly attached to, independant of any interested view of my own (if I have any), or the service of any friend, even Sir Jn^o. Stuart.*

Lord Milton's behaviour to me, with respect to bringing my friends on the Councill, I have great reason to complain of. If I cou'd attend myself, I should not take it amiss his making me even junior Merchant Counsellor, without asking me; but how comes he to imagine that I wou'd wish that any of my friends shou'd be so servilely mine, as to come in, in the way he would have them? No, I pray God I never may chuse such friends; if I was a Duke, nay a king, I should despise such servile dependants. Now, my D^r. Sir, I assure you I have no complaints from my friends; nor have I shewed to them that I think in this manner, as it might do hurt to Lord B. and consequently to me. I beg you will see them sometimes, and look on the House in some degree as you did of old. Hunter,³ who I have agreed shall be a Counsellor, is I think one of the most promising young men I ever knew: it would be a pity polliticks should do him any hurt.

I do not at all like my acc^{ts}. of polliticks from London, but you will be better informed below. Lord B., by what my brother writes me, I fancy will give up the Privy Purse, which is a great loss to me; I once tho't of writing to him to recommend us to his successor, but I have determined, on no account whatever, to teize him at this time. It never has been the case with me; but if ever it shou'd happen, I trust I cou'd say, from the heart,

To folks in a cottage, contentment is wealth.

If it was possible for so good a mind as my Lord B.'s to be thoroughly

* Of Allanbank; his uncle.

³ Afterwards Sir James Hunter Blair, Baronet, and M.P. for Edinburgh.

1763. mortified, what must he suffer! What a sacrifice does he make to his love to the King! who, I trust, will ever prove deserving of it.

As I have the highest confidence in your honour and friendship, I have ever made you almost my father confessor in polliticks, and need not tell you to take care of this letter. My health, as you will guess by it, is greatly improved by bathing in the sea.

Pray write me your opinion of Scots' polliticks. Will Mr. Mackenzie either decline publick business, or will the next ministry discard him? Direct to me to London, and let me hear soon from you on receipt of this. My young amiable friends are well, I hope.

Ever, my dear Sir,

Your most obliged and obed^t servant,

JAMES COUTTS.

XCVII.

INSTRUCTIONS TO SCOTCH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

4 Oct^r. 1763.

To ——— MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF ———

We, the freeholders of the County of ———, assembled at the Michaelmass Head Court, the 4th day of October, 1763, taking into consideration that it is our *right* to instruct our representative in Parliament, in all points where we judge the honour and interest of our country concerned, are further led to think that it is our *duty* at this juncture to express to you our sentiments with regard to the publick situation, and what we wish may be your conduct, as our representative; because we are willing to persuade ourselves, had your constituents' sentiments been communicated to you last Sessions, your voice in Parliament would not have condemned that peace which they account a blessing to themselves, and to their posterity.

We live under a King, who if ever a King deserved the confidence of

his subjects, deserves ours. After a glorious war, a peace has been made 1763. adequate to the ends and successes of it, and instead of ancient national animosities, we have seen all parts of Britain only vying with each other, which should contribute most to her common prosperity.

At such a period, we little expected to see the publick tranquillity disturbed by dissensions in the State. Friends of Liberty and of Government, we behold with regret the progress of faction, that most dangerous enemy; a faction that, without wearing even the mask of reformation, has dared to offer insult to our sovereign, the exalted pattern of every publick as well as every private virtue; has endeavoured, by the most injurious and illiberal abuse, to obstruct his Government and embarrass his Councils, and has laboured, by the revival of party and national distinctions, to divide and seduce from each other the affections of an united people. These attempts, though we regard them with disdain, as vain and impotent, yet too plainly point out the designs of their authors, and ought, Sir, to put every honest member of the community upon his guard against the tendency of their malignant purposes.

We do therefore admonish and instruct you, our representative, to hold such a conduct in Parliament as may testify your and our disapprobation of these factious efforts, and to concur in such constitutional measures as may be proposed, for quelling that licentious spirit, and for deterring bad men from future attempts to weaken the sense of subordination among the people, and the respect due to good order and Government.

XCVIII.

MR. ELLIOT TO BARON MURE.

Thursday.

I am much obliged to you, my dear friend, for your kind letter, and that you approve of the mark of kindness and friendship shewn me. I have really had occasion to ask nothing, since I have been in this world of

1763. politicks: more than I could wish has poured upon me. You know the offer I had, and my reasons for refusing it. What is substituted in its place cannot but be acceptable to me, as it brings permanency with it, if it ever comes at all. I am glad Milton¹ takes it like a man; I should have been sorry to hurt him.

I should have wrote you sooner, if any new event had occurred. At present, things stand as you left them—rather more indications daily, by which I lament that our old friend² will hardly be contented with the retreat he chose: his city progress, his attending the tavern militia meetings, and the seeds sown in his only speech, point that way. I wait, however, for absolute conviction before I determine upon his conduct. We have voted³ the British army, and on Wednesday, next week, go to the foreign estimate, when we shall probably have some discourse. L. B. is well, and not without care. I believe the sight of his green forests would refresh him, but they are distant. There is much talk about Spain, but nothing certain as yet.

I have just got Fingal, and shall send away the remainder of this night on antient song. My love to the fair spouse of the Son of the West.

Yours ever,

G. E.

XCIX.

LORD PRIVY SEAL TO BARON MURE.

Burlington Street, 20 Oct. 1763.

Dear Baron,

I thought you might wish to hear from me after my arrival here, and having met with my brother, whom, to my great joy, I found (at Luton Park in Bedfordshire) in much better health and spirits than I had

¹ Lord Milton would seem to have been also a candidate for the office alluded to.

² Earl of Bute.

³ This Letter (being without date) has inadvertently been misplaced. It must have been written after the opening of the Session of Parliament.

reason to expect. I staid one night with him, and then proceeded hither, 1763. where I have been as yet but a couple of days; but I have had already an opportunity of acquainting the best of Princes with the good dispositions of his Northern subjects, and their hearty desire to support his dignity and Government, with which he was very well pleased. I hope to God no one Member of the north of Tweed (except the scabby sheep) will be absent at the opening of the session, for we shall probably proceed, in the most solemn manner, in the affair of that infamous fellow Wilkes *immediately*, even before the King's speech be read to us in our House; so you may guess what appearance it would have for any of *our* people to be absent on so great and important an occasion. I have had a long conversation with Mr. Grenville, and have been with both the Secretaries of State, from all which I find that matters are likely to go on well, and that we shall probably have a swimming majority.

I received a letter last night from S^r Robert Gordon of Gordonston, preses of the Michaelmas meeting of the freeholders of the shire of Elgin, inclosing to me the resolutions of the said meeting,¹ which resolutions they have directed to be printed in the newspapers; but, as they contain comp^{ts} to my brother and me, they will, at such a time as this, do us far more hurt than good, especially as they come from the north of Tweed. I suppose it will be too late now to stop their being printed. I wish they would by some means or other have sounded the ground before they took the step. Say nothing, for God's sake, but in confidence, and to excite any backward Member to attend, of what I have told you about our intended proceedings at the opening of the Session.

So much for the present.

ADIEU.

C.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Burlington Street, 28 Oct^r. 1763.

Dear Mure,

I wrote you a few lines on my arrival here, and, among other things, I hinted to you the impropriety of the Michaelmas meeting at Elgin

¹ See No. XCIV. ?

1763. publishing in the papers their resolution, in which they very obligingly testify their approbation of my brother and me, but which I was certain beforehand would be followed with disagreeable consequences here, and accordingly so it has happened; for their resolution appeared only *yesterday* in our newspapers here, and *to-day* there is the most bitter and abusive letter in the papers against my brother, myself, and Scotland in general. This I was persuaded would as certainly be the consequence of any approbation of us from any part of Scotland, as if I had seen it beforehand. Why won't well meaning people consult with those that know better than themselves, before they venture to take a step which may plant daggers in the heart of the men they mean to do service to? I hope the rest of Scotland will avoid testifying any public approbation, when they may be firmly persuaded that approbation from *them* entails mortal wounds upon *us* from this part of the kingdom. As I never was in that country, and am totally unacquainted with S^r Robert Gordon of Gordonstone, who wrote me the letter, (and whom I answered in the civilest manner in my power,) I should fancy the idea has taken its rise from my good friend Lord Kames, or Lord Deskfoord also. I wish you would in a proper manner convey to them the immense impropriety of such a *publick* approbation committed to print at such a *time* as the present. The post is just going, so I must bid you adieu. I go next week to my brother for some days.

CL.

MR. ELLIOT TO BARON MURE.

London, 28th Oct^r. 1763.

My Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure of seeing your friend Mr. Graham both since his last arrival and upon his first jaunt. I have, you need not doubt, done him all the service in my power, and he seems perfectly satisfied with his reception in this part of the world. I very sincerely wish him all the success that his spirit and enterprise intitle him to expect.

I am just setting out to pass a few days at Luton Park with our friend. 1763.
 We expect, at the opening of the Session, some pretty interesting points ;
 but I have no sort of doubt, neither of our support or numbers. The last
 I believe will be very great. I beg my best respects to Mrs. Mure, and
 I am ever, my d^r. Sir,

Yours very truly,

GILB. ELLIOT.

CII.

LORD PRIVY SEAL TO BARON MURE.

Burlington Street, 17 Nov^r. 1763.

Dear Mure,

As I suppose you'll be curious to know what passed at the opening of the Session, I have inclosed to you an account which I made out myself, and which I believe you'll find more full, and perhaps more exact, than many you may chance to see ; you may communicate it where you will, but you need not name your correspondent. On the second division, the most important one, S^r Alex^r. Gilmour,¹ Murray² of Broughton, and Dempster³ voted with us ; Shawfield⁴ is not come up, so that all our northern Members present were on one side of the question ; lucky I believe for them, as I apprehend their being on the side of Wilkes would not have recommended them in Scotland. Ardkinlass⁵ has not yet made his appearance ; I am sorry for it ; Dempster was with us in both questions ; Gilmour only arrived after the first division was over ; Murray in that voted against us. I received yours of the 5th inst. I did not mean, in my former letter concerning the Elgin meeting, that you should write either to Deskfoord, or to Kames, about the affair, so you did mighty well not

¹ M.P. for Edinburghshire.

² M.P. for Wigtonshire.

³ M.P. for Perth boroughs.

⁴ Daniel Campbell, Esq. of—M.P. for Lanarkshire.

⁵ Colonel James Campbell, younger of—M.P. for Stirlingshire.

1763. to write. You are a sad correspondent, for you don't answer me till the affair is over that I write about, and I am sure you have ten times the leisure moments that I have here; however, I shall expect to hear soon about all the points I left in charge with you. Our appearance at the opening of this Session forebodes all good to the King's measures, which puts us in great spirits. ADIEU.

CIII.

ENCLOSURE ABOVE REFERRED TO.

The Session of Parliament is always opened by reading some Bill prepared for that purpose, and then the House usually takes his Majesty's speech into consideration. It is necessary to premise this, by way of explanation to what follows:—

Tuesday, 15th November, 1763.

The House being returned from attending his Majesty in the House of Peers, the Members elected since the last Session of Parliament were sworn in at the table. That being concluded, Mr. Speaker was going to order the clerk to read the Bill as usual, when that virtuous senator Mr. Wilkes started up, and said that he had a breach of privilege to complain of. On which arose a very long and tiresome debate, whether a matter of privilege should not take place of every thing else, even of the reading of the Bill for opening the Session of Parliament; and, after near five hours' debate, the House divided; when the majority determined that the Bill should first be read, agreeable to the constant practice of Parliament; the numbers on the division were, 300 to 111.

This being decided, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer presented a message from the King, which is as followeth:—I am commanded by his Majesty to acquaint this House, that his Majesty, having received information that John Wilkes, Esq^r a member of this House, was the author of a most seditious and dangerous libel, published since the last Session of Parliament,—he had caused the said John Wilkes, Esq^r to be appre-

hended and secured, in order to his being tried for the same by due course of law. And Mr. Wilkes having been discharged out of custody by the Court of Common Pleas, upon account of his privilege as a member of the House, and having been called upon by the legal process of the Court of King's Bench, stood out and declined to appear and answer to an information which has since been exhibited against him by his Majesty's Attorney General for the same offence. In this situation, his Majesty being desirous to show all possible attention to the privilege of the House of Commons, in every instance wherein they can be supposed to be concerned, and, at the same time, thinking it of the utmost importance not to suffer the publick justice of the kingdom to be eluded, has chosen to direct the said libel, and also copys of the examinations upon which Mr. Wilkes was apprehended and secured, to be laid before this House for their consideration.

Resolved,

That an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to return his Majesty the thanks of this House for his most gracious message, and for the tender regard therein expressed of the privileges of this House, and to assure his Majesty that this House will forthwith take into their most serious consideration the very important matter communicated by his Majesty's message.

And a question being proposed, that the paper intituled *The North Briton*, No. 45, is a false, scandalous, and seditious libel, containing expressions of the most unexampled insolence and contumely towards his Majesty, the grossest aspersions upon both Houses of Parliament, and most audacious defiance of the authority of the whole Legislature; and most manifestly tending to alienate the affections of the people from his Majesty, to withdraw them from their obedience to the laws of the realm, and to excite them to traiterous insurrections against his Majesty's government;—and a question being put to leave out the words: “And to excite them to traiterous insurrections against his Majesty's Government:” House divided,

Yeas,	.	.	.	.	111
Noes,	.	.	.	.	273

2 c

1763. Then the question was agreed to, and the said paper was ordered to be burnt by the hand of the common hangman.

Further consideration of the message adjourned till Wednesday, 12 o'clock.

The matter of the complaint of Mr. Wilkes to be considered on Thursday morning next.

Adjourned till to-morrow.

Thus far the minutes of the House.

The debate in the question relating to the North Briton, No. 45, lasted several hours, and the House did not rise till near two in the morning. Mr. Pitt was the only person worth mentioning who made any objection to the question, tho', in doing it, he agreed entirely to the whole of it, except the above mentioned words which he proposed to leave out, saying that he did not see any thing in the paper, No. 45, which could warrant that part of the resolution, and for that reason he divided the House upon it. Wilkes had the assurance to propose that the epithet of *false* should be left out, but Mr. Pitt himself over ruled that absurd proposal. In the course of the debate, Mr. Martin,¹ (late Secretary to the Treasury), observed "That many private characters had " been scandalously traduced in these infamous papers ; That he himself " had been grossly abused in them ; That a man capable of writing in " that manner, without putting his name to it, and thereby stabbing " another in the dark, was a cowardly rascal, a villain, and a scoundrel. " I repeat my words, Sir," says he, " That they may be heard and " remembered. I say that such a man is a cowardly rascal, a villain, and " a scoundrel." Nothing more passed on this at the time, but the next morning Wilkes wrote him an insolent and abusive letter, and told him that he was the author of that paper.

Mr. Martin returned for answer, that he firmly adhered to every tittle which he had advanced in the debate last night, and did therefore

¹ Samuel Martin, Esq. M.P. for Camelford. In the Edinburgh Review, (Oct. 1844, p. 563,) it is said, in reference to this affair, that Wilkes "picked a quarrel with one of Lord Bute's dependants, &c." The reverse was obviously the case, Martin having picked the quarrel with Wilkes.

desire that Wilkes would meet him directly in Hyde Park with his pistols. 1763. They accordingly met. Wilkes fired first; Mr. Martin then fired his second pistol, and shot Wilkes in the belly, near the navel, on the left side. The ball has since been extracted from the right side, at five or six inches distance from where it entered. They think him in no danger of his life, but they say he is in a great deal of pain from the muscles of the belly being cut thro'. It is an unfortunate affair this, as it may delay the just punishment which the House will probably inflict upon so heinous a criminal. At the same time that the House of Commons was proceeding against him on the account above mentioned, a complaint was made in the House of Lords against the most obscene and the most blasphemous poem that ever was wrote. The House of Lords first voted it a breach of privilege to one of their body, and then found Wilkes to be the author of it. For he had put the name of Dr. Warburton, Bishop of Gloucester, to many of his impious notes on that poem. To give you some idea of this piece, the frontispiece of it is the private parts of a man, with this motto in Greek: *The Saviour of the World*.

He then endeavours to show that the blessed Virgin was not so much a virgin as a famous woman of the town here. In another place, he says, that an ass had been always held in high esteem, till the Godhead rode on an ass to Jerusalem, since which time that animal has fallen into the greatest contempt. There is enough to give you an idea of this performance. Wilkes was to have appeared before the House of Lords, Thursday the 17th November, to answer to the heavy charge against him there, but the unfortunate duel prevented him.

CIV.

LORD PRIVY SEAL TO BARON MURE.

Burlington Street, 25 Nov^r. 1763.

Dear Baron,

The inclosed¹ will tell you what we have done in the affair which employs the whole attention of mankind hereabouts. I have your letter

¹ This enclosure has not been preserved.

1763. of the 8th ins^t as to the affair of S^r Kenneth Mackenzie's succession.² I imagine it is merely a matter of favour which ever way it goes, *in case* it should be judged proper by H. Maj. to give it either to the late L^d Cromartie, or to Stewart, grandson of L^d Royston, and our cousin; but pray inform me particularly about it, as both have applied to me for it. I am indifferent about separating the ports of Port Glasgow and Greenock, and will wait till you below are of opinion that it may be done with propriety; but I do beg that I may be apprised *in time* when any application is made to the Treasury, that I may support it, or indeed that I may not unknowingly counteract it, which may be the case if I am not apprised of it. Dear Mure, I am tired to death with attendance on the House, and a thousand other pieces of business. Write to me directly, in answer to this, about Dunlop, for I shall have many applications.

P.S.—Saturday, 26 Nov.—This Letter was too late for last night's post, and therefore reserved till to-night. Since writing it, I have received yours of the 22^d ins^t. You will observe I had before hand transmitted to you the sequel of our transactions relative to Mr. Wilkes, which you express an anxiety to know. As to the rest of your letter, I'll answer it another time. Poor Martin, I hear, is gone to France, advised by his law friends to retire; for, notwithstanding all his provocation, and the most honorable and fair duel, God knows what a Middlesex Jury might bring it in, should Wilkes' wound prove mortal! tho', by the best accounts, he seems to be in no immediate danger. With talking and being talked to, his fever increases from time to time; but the surgeons have all declared that no vital part is affected. If you knew how deadly tired I am with attendance on the House, and with a variety of other business, you would be vastly obliged to me, my dear Mure, for all this information.

ADIEU.

² The dormant Baronetcy of Mackenzie of Tarbat and Royston.

CV.

FURTHER PROCEEDINGS IN PARL^T RELATIVE TO WILKES.¹Jovis 1^o Die Decembris, 1763.

Resolved, *nem. con.* That an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to acquaint his Majesty, that, having taken into our consideration a late false, scandalous, and seditious libel, intituled, The North Briton, No. 45, we think it our indispensable duty to express our surprise and indignation at finding that neither the public nor private virtues, which so eminently entitle his Majesty to the highest veneration, as well as to the most grateful and loyal attachment of all his subjects, nor the gracious expressions of his tender care and affection for his people, in his Majesty's speech from the throne at the end of the last Session of Parliament, which has been thus infamously traduced, should have been sufficient to secure his Majesty from so insolent and unexampled an indignity.

That such indeed has been his Majesty's uniform adherence to the principles of our happy constitution, and such the uninterrupted harmony and good correspondence between his Majesty and his Parliament, that it is no wonder to see that the same audacious hand, which hath dared thus grossly to affront his Majesty, should at the same time violate the other sacred regards prescribed by the laws and constitution of this country, aspersing and calumniating every branch of the Legislature, and endeavouring to excite, amongst all ranks of his Majesty's subjects, such a spirit of discord and disobedience as could end in nothing but the total subversion of all lawful government.

To express also to his Majesty our firm persuasion and just confidence that this most extravagant and outrageous attempt will prove as impotent as it is wicked: that, instead of answering the purposes for which it appears to have been calculated, it will, on the contrary, serve to excite

¹ Enclosed in an envelope of Lord Privy Seal—not preserved—of date Dec. 2.

1763. in his faithful subjects the abhorrence of such dangerous practices ; to unite them more firmly in their zealous attachment to his Majesty's person and Government, and in a due reverence for the authority of the Legislature ; and, lastly, that, in consequence of his Majesty's directions to prosecute the authors of this infamous libel, it will bring such punishment, upon those who shall be found guilty of so atrocious a crime, as the laws of their country have prescribed, and as the public justice and safety shall demand.

The House of Lords concurred with the House of Commons in their resolutions on the libel, and on the matter of privilege ; after which the two Houses of Parliam^t. joined in the above address to the King.

The two Houses have also concurred in ordering that infamous libel to be burned to-morrow at one o'clock (Saturday, 3^d Dec^r.) by the hand of the common hangman, at the Royal Exchange. The Sheriffs of London are also ordered to attend and see it done.

Burlington Street,
2^d December, 1763.

Baron Mure.

I inclose a List of the Opposers on Tuesday last
in the House of Lords.

List of minority in the H. of Lords, Tuesday, Nov^r. 29, on the question of privilege of Parl^t. for writing libels.

Proxies included—35.

Dukes of	Cumberland.	Earls of	Dartmouth.
	Grafton.		Bristol.
	Bolton.		Ashburnham.
	Devonshire.		Temple.
	Newcastle.		Cornwallis.
	Portland.	Pr.	Falconberg.
Pr. Marquis of	Rockingham.	Viscounts	Torrington.
Earls of	Lincoln.		Folkestone.
	Scarborough.	Bishops	Litchfield.
	Albemarle.		St. Asaph.
Pr.	Jersey.	Pr.	Chichester.
	Stafford.	Baron	Abergavenny.

	Baron Dacre.	Baron Besborough.	1763.
Pr.	Onslow.	Walpole.	
Pr.	Monson.	Sonds.	
Pr.	Edgecombe.	Shelburne.	
	Sandys.	Grantham.	
	Fortescue.		

N.B.—The majority who determined against priviledges in such cases were (proxies included) 114.

CVI.

LORD PRIVY SEAL TO BARON MURE.

Burlington Street, 6th Dec^r. 1763.

D^r. Matthew Stewart,¹ Professor of Mathematics at Edinburgh, was here with me lately, and an ingenious little man he is. He has an idea that I think would be of publick utility, viz. to have a proper person joined with him in the Professorship, who should teach the scholars, and receive the emoluments arising from them, in order to give him (Stewart) time to pursue his writings in that branch of knowledge. This is his idea, provided some sinecure office, equal to the value of what he now receives annually from his scholars, could be procured for him; so I wish something were suggested for him. I shall write to L^d. Milton, and I wish you and L^d. Milton would lay your heads together on the subject, and send for the Professor and talk to him about it.

You will have heard that Colonel Barré is dismissed from Stirling Castle, and that Jemmy Campbell² has got that government.

¹ A native of Bute, one of the most distinguished mathematicians of the last century; born 1717, died 1785. He was father of Dugald Stewart, afterwards still more celebrated as Professor of Moral Philosophy in the same University. Dr. Stewart was a favourite pupil and friend of Dr. Simson of Glasgow. See No. XCIII.*

² Younger of Ardkinglas, M.P. for Stirlingshire.

1763. You may give G. C³—— a hint that I spell my name at full length, and not *M^c* which is absurd.

You will have seen by the papers of the mob daring to endeavour to obstruct the burning of the libel last Saturday. The House of Lords have already taken up that matter highly. We shall to-morrow, and concur with them.

I wrote to L^d. Milton, by last post, to this purpose—"That Baron Mure had talked to my brother and me on the subject of his (L^d. Milton's) scheme for employing disbanded seamen and soldiers,⁴ and that we should wish he would send us up an entire draft of a plan for that purpose; for that, without a full view of the affair, it is impossible to judge how far it is or is not practicable; and that the sooner he sent it in the better." This was the substance of what I wrote to him on that head. I have not a moment more, so

ADIEU.

CVII.

PROVOST INGRAM¹ TO LORD PRIVY SEAL.

Glasgow, 2^d Jan^r. 1764.

My Lord,

As I know that your lordship has warmly at heart the prosperity and interest of your country, and in particular of this part of it, I presume,

³ George Clerk, probably; afterwards Sir George of Pennycuik. See No. LXV.

⁴ See No. LXXX. seq.

¹ A distinguished merchant of Glasgow, then Lord Provost of the city. This letter, and the documents to which it refers, with some others of a later date, inserted in the sequel, [see below, No. CXV. CXLVII. CXLVIII. CLV. &c.] while relating, more immediately, to the then much agitated question of the "optional clause" in Scotch Bank Notes, embrace generally the leading features of the History of Banking in this part of the island.

At the present crisis, when the same or similar questions are so keenly discussed among ourselves, these papers possess interest, as representing the views of the chief mercantile community of Scotland at that period, on the subjects of which they treat. A similar value attaches to the Notes, which are from the pen of Sir James Stewart of Coltness, one of the highest authorities of the last century in this particular branch of national economy.—See Note to No. XIV.

at the instance of our merchants, to transmit to you a memorial respecting them, as members of the Banking Companys erected in this place. 1764.

They are apprehensive, and with reason, (seeing that a deputation from the Banks of Edinburgh are gone to London), that they intend to apply to Parliament for an exclusive privilege to this branch of business, or to be indulged in some preference. As we presume they are not entitled either to one or other, I beg leave, therefore, to request that your lordship will use your interest to promote a continuance of the Banks here, and, also, that they may be put on an equal footing with the Banks at Edinburgh.

I flatter myself that our merit to the indulgence of our country is equal; and hope your lordship will think so, after a perusal of the memorial, to which I must beg leave to refer you.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's, &c.

ARCH^d. INGRAM.

CVIII.

MEMORIAL ABOVE REFERRED TO—WITH NOTES BY SIR JAMES STUART OF COLTNESS.

4th February, 1763.

The first Banking Company established in Scotland, was that called the Bank of Scotland. This Company, like all the other Banking Companies which had been established in Europe before it, at first issued no other notes or bills, except such as were payable on demand; and these, being always readily paid as soon as presented, had, in every respect, the same currency, and were received in all payments as equal to cash.

Sometime afterwards there was another Banking Company established at Edinburgh, called the Royal Bank of Scotland. This new Company was more favoured by Government, and the officers of the Customs and

1764. Excise had orders to accept of the notes of this new Company in all payments of the publick revenue.

This mark of favour from Government, together with that spirit of rivalry which is as natural to societies as to individuals, encouraged this new Bank to collect a large value of the notes of the old Bank, and therewith to make a larger demand upon them than could be expedited in the ordinary course of business, with a seeming intention to oblige them to stop payments. The old Company or Bank, in order to secure themselves from such enterprizes, began soon thereafter to insert into their notes, which were drawn in the common form of promissary notes, what they called an *Optional Clause*, by which they promised payment to the bearer, either upon demand, or, in the option of the Directors, six months after demand, with interest at the rate of five per cent. from the day whereon the demand should be made. They took care to publish, at the same time, that they were resolved to make no use of this *Optional Clause*, in order to defer payment of any notes which should be presented in the ordinary course of business, but only to secure themselves from what they thought the unjust enterprizes of their rivals. This expedient had the desired effect; it put an entire stop to all further attempts of this kind, and, as the notes of the Royal Bank continued to be issued in the usual form, promising payment on demand absolutely, and without any *Optional Clause*, the Directors of the old Bank, whose notes alone were clogged with any such clause, seemed for a long time to make it a point of honour to pay them notwithstanding, with the greatest readiness, so soon as presented.

About twelve years ago, the merchants of Glasgow found it necessary, for carrying on their business, to establish, first one and then another Company at Glasgow, of the same kind with the two Banks at Edinburgh.¹ The notes of these two Glasgow Companys were first drawn in the common form of promissary notes, payable to the bearer upon demand, and without any *Optional Clause*; but the establishment of these Companies provoked the jealousy of the Banks at Edinburgh, who sometime

[¹ Probably the Ship Bank, 1749; and the Glasgow Arms Bank, 1753.—Ed.]

thereafter united most cordially, in order to distress their new rivals, in 1764. the same manner in which the Royal Bank at Edinburgh had endeavoured to distress the Bank of Scotland. The two Companies at Glasgow thereupon thought themselves at liberty to have recourse to the same expedient by which the Bank of Scotland had defended itself against the like enterprises of the Royal Bank: the insertion of an Optional Clause into their promissary notes. Their example was lately followed by the Royal Bank at Edinburgh, and by the British Linnen Company there, who for some years before had acted as Bankers, and had issued promissary notes payable to the bearer. A third Banking Company² too, lately established at Glasgow, adopted for their own security the same expedient.

There have therefore been for sometime past, six Banks and Banking Companys in Scotland, whose notes are clogged with this Optional Clause.

It is in the notes of these severall Banking Companys that all considerable payments are at present, and have for sometime past, been made in Scotland. These notes, therefore, may be considered as constituting at present the far greater part of the real current money of the country.

During the two last years of the warr with France, now happily ended, the low price of Stocks encouraged severall English as well as Scotch gentlemen, to take up all the money either owing to them, or that they could borrow in Scotland, in order to purchase into the publick funds. This money being paid to the proprietors, or to their agents in Scotland, in Scotch bank notes, and it being necessary, in order to remit it to London, to exchange these bank notes either for cash or bills upon London, there necessarily followed an extraordinary demand for cash or for bills upon London, upon all the Banking Companys in Scotland.

These Companys, though of undoubted credit, found it difficult to provide cash for this extraordinary demand. They gave, therefore, to those who presented for payment any considerable sum in their own notes, bills on London payable at long dates. To some, who refused to accept

[² The Thistle Bank.—Ed.]

1764. of bills at such distant dates, they often paid slowly and with reluctance; and some of them at times threatened to take advantage of the Optional Clause, and so to defer payment for six months. This not being convenient for the far greater part of the holders of their notes, they were intimidated either to accept of bills at those distant dates, or to content themselves with smaller payments in specie than they found were convenient. With regard to those who were quite obstinate, one of the Banks at Edinburgh fairly executed its threats, taking advantage of the Optional Clause, by marking its notes on the back, as presented on such a day, in order to be paid with interest six months after demand, and two of the Companies at Glasgow have lately, in some instances, followed their example.

By these different arts the notes of the several Banking Companies in Scotland have sunk in their value; and, as cash can no longer be had for them on demand to any great extent, tho' they may still be considered as good securitys, they cannot be considered as cash. The holders of these bank notes, however, received them in payment as cash, in the faith and expectation that they were to answer their occasions equally well. To such holders, therefore, these bank notes must be as much inferior in value to cash,³ as a security for payment of money six months hence, with

³ I observe that the bank notes of Scotland are here improperly said to be much inferior in value to cash.

They are really equal in value to cash in Scotland; but they are not equal in value to that cash transported to England.

The value of cash is in proportion to the use that can be made of it. Could cash therefore produce no more any where than five per cent. when lent out or employed, the bank notes bearing five p. cent. would be equally valuable as cash; but if cash sent to London shall produce more than five p. cent., then the Banks of Scotland, on refusing payment for six months, ought, in justice to the holders of these notes, to allow an interest on them equivalent to the profit which they might make on the cash were it paid to them.

This points out the absurdity of fixing the rate of interest by law among trading men in a trading nation; and this also shews an inavoidable inconveniency which must attend the lending of money when interest is low, seeing the same individual sum of money or quantity of gold and silver is really more valuable at one time than another:

interest, to one who has immediate occasion for it, is inferior to the actual 1764.
possession of the money. Scotch bank notes, however, constituting almost the whole currency of Scotland, that currency must necessarily be of inferior value to the currency of England,⁴ of the same denomination, which

One thousand pounds sterl. is really, in time of war, more valuable at London, as well as at Edinburgh, than in times of peace : and

This difference of value must of necessity be felt by every debtor, be he a banker or a private person, as oft as he is obliged to repay in war time what he had borrowed in times of peace. A bank borrows when it issues its notes, because, by that operation, it constitutes itself debtor to the holders of them. This, however, is called *paying in notes* ; but I am said to borrow when *I pay with my bond*. The bank notes of Scotland are equally valuable to cash in Scotland, to the extent of all the circulation of Scotland ; but when it happens that the sum of bank notes issued exceeds the quantity of the circulation of Scotland, (that is, when the quantity of them are more than equal to all the ready money demands of Scotland,) the surplus must then be realised (let the expense be what it will,) into some *value*, which will circulate in the place whither the proprietors intend to send it.

Now, when there is a demand for bills on London for bank notes, that demand proves that the mass of notes issued exceeds the ready money demands of Scotland at that point of time ; because, had the holder of them a ready money demand upon him, he could not send them to London. On such occasions, then, the Banks lose from a necessary consequence of banking, or from their own imprudence, if they have unwarily issued too many notes. Whoever has in property any species of value may turn that value into gold or silver. The Banks have a value for all the notes they issue, or are supposed to have it ; but if they seek to realise that value from abroad in gold and silver, it is very plain that they must pay an advanced price for these commodities, in proportion as they rise in their value from accidental circumstances.

Banks, therefore, must not complain if their profits are reduced on such occasions, but they must provide against them ; and if any person pretend that a bank note of Scotland is not worth the coin of the denomination contained in it, then I say that such Banks ought to pay to the holders all the difference of their notes ; because they ought really to be bound for the value, not for the denomination by which that value is specified, when they do not comply with the conditions contained in the obligation.

For this reason, all Optional Clauses ought to be abolished. Such clauses are incompatible with every circulating value ; that is, to the bearer.

⁴ It would turn out to be a dispute of words to endeavour to prove that the Scotch currency is equal in value to the English currency. All I shall say is, that it is no proof that a currency is debased because the transportation of it to a distant place costs money. This is the only argument used to prove that the Scots currency is inferior to the English.

1764. consists either of gold or silver, or of such paper as can readily, and without danger of any affected delay, be changed into gold and silver. An hundred pounds paper money of Scotland, not being worth an hundred pounds English money, when a merchant in Scotland has occasion to pay an hundred pounds in London, or a merchant or trader in England to receive the like sum from Scotland, he must pay the person who sells him a bill on London, for that sum, not only the ordinary and natural premium or exchange, but likewise an additional consideration for the difference of value between English and Scotch currency. Gold and silver can be sent either from Edinburgh or Glasgow to London in fifteen to twenty days, carried and secured by the carriers, at an expense of twelve to fifteen shillings for the hundred pounds. If English and Scotch currency were therefore of the same value, the premium of exchange at Edinburgh or Glasgow, for a bill on London, thirty days after date, the

But that inconveniency would not be removed, though all the Banks in Scotland should pay in specie on demand. The Bank of England pays all notes on demand; but still that does not prevent exchange on Holland from rising against England, on many occasions, far beyond the price of transporting thither gold and silver. The cause of this phenomenon extends beyond the limits of the present question.

The whole inconveniency complained of flows from this—Scots notes have not credit in England; and the reason is, because the security on which they rest is not sufficiently known in England, perhaps not in Scotland.

Can any other reason be assigned for the high course of exchange? Do we not see how bills of exchange have an universal currency all over Europe? Did the several Banks of Europe endorse reciprocally one another's notes, and solde their ballance in specie, sent from time to time, who doubts but that the business of exchange would dwindle to nothing?

Was there no bank in England whose paper can be sent as coin from place to place, would there not be an exchange between every two trading cities in that kingdom? as is the case in France, Holland, and almost every other country where there are no bank notes.

Scotland, therefore, never will flourish in its credit as it might do, until her banks are set on such a footing as to obtain universal credit in the commercial world; and that will be the case as soon as the security they stand upon shall be perfectly known beyond a possibility of being mistaken. If it be said that no such scheme can be set on foot, consistent with the interest of the present bankers, I answer, that then the present banks are improperly constituted; and every circumstance which can drive this country to constitute them otherways, is a happy circumstance for our posterity.

usual time of payment, never could exceed $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. or fifteen shillings 1764. for the hundred pounds, even in the worst times, because the remitter of the money could send it to London in a shorter time, and at no greater expense.⁵ But for a year past the premium of exchange, both at Edinburgh and Glasgow, for bills on London, payable in thirty days' date, has been from 2 to 4 per cent. above par. During this period, therefore, the currency of Scotland must have been $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. inferior in value to the currency of England, when the exchange was at 2 per cent. and $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. when at the highest, viz. 4 per cent. A merchant in Dumfries pays a premium of 2 per cent. or fourty shillings in the hundred pounds, for a bill upon London, payable at thirty days from the date; when, at the same time, a merchant in Whitehaven, which is at no great distance from Dumfries, purchases, at par, a bill upon the same place and payable in the same manner. No other reason can be given for this but that the money of Dumfries, which consists of Scotch bank notes, is of inferior value to the money at Whitehaven, which consists of English guineas.⁶

⁵ If it be urged that exchange would fall to $\frac{3}{4}$ p. cent. did the banks pay in cash on demand, what an argument does this furnish against all bankers! seeing it is from their greed of gain alone that they do not pay in specie. For let the demand be never so strong upon them at particular times, it is still most certain that a small proportion of cash will circulate all the ready money demands of the country, and when they have issued more, the interest they have drawn for such surplus ought to indemnify them for the loss upon their draughts on London. For surely nobody will maintain that bills on London, drawn by the banks, can in any case be refused by people who are sending their surplus out of Scotland.

Banks, therefore, ought either to circumscribe their issuing of notes, or be obliged, in default of specie, to furnish bills on London, at the exchange of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

This can imply no inconveniency to banks, as nobody will demand such bills but in the necessity of sending them off for the payment of the ballance of trade against Scotland. If it be said that the debts due to English people, or money sent away for stockjobbing, will increase this sum, I answer, that such demands on the bank will diminish the quantity of notes necessary for Scotch circulation; and that will produce a new demand for notes to replace the old, and upon these the banks will have 5 p. c. a year to indemnify them for the $\frac{3}{4}$ p. c. they are supposed to have lost in giving their bills which never can return on them.

⁶ The money of Whitehaven does not consist of guineas any more than that of Glas-

1764. This degradation of the paper money of Scotland, which constitutes at present almost the whole currency of the country, subjects its trade and industry to many inconveniences.

For as the bank notes of the different Banking Companys constitute almost the whole currency of Scotland, whatever sinks their value must have the same effects upon the commerce of the country which would be produced by the clipping or wearing of the current coin. The clipping and wearing of the English silver coin, which happened in the reign of King William,⁷ raised the exchange between England and Scotland to more than twenty p. cent. above parr against England. Can it be wondered at, therefore, that the degradation of the paper money of Scotland should have a proportional effect upon the exchange between England and Scotland?

A merchant in Glasgow, who sells to the French agent his tobacco at the same price with a merchant in Whitehaven, receives his payment in Scotch bank notes, while the other receives his in English guineas. The merchant in Glasgow, therefore, while he nominally receives the same price, really sells his goods 2 p. cent. cheaper than the merchant of Whitehaven, because the Whitehaven merchant, with an hundred pounds gold and silver, can purchase a bill upon London for an hundred pounds which he owes there; but a Glasgow merchant, with his Scotch bank notes, cannot purchase at Glasgow such a bill upon London under £102, perhaps not under £104. It is in London, however, that both the Glasgow and Whitehaven merchants must pay for the greater part of

gow. One and t'other consist of notes. But the difference is, that the Bank of England acquits her own notes sent from Whitehaven, but not those of Scotland sent from Glasgow. From thence proceeds the difference, not from the difference of the value of the currencies, which, (if referred to coin,) is all the same.

⁷ The comparison between the pretended degradation of the Scotch money, and the real degradation operated by the clipping of the coin in K. William's time, is not just. Were notes paid in Glasgow in clipped coin, the degradation would be *real*; because, altho' such coin could be transported to London, free of all charge, it would still be less in value than coin not clipped. The clipping of the coin in K. William's time raised exchange to 50 p. cent above par, as can be proved.

those goods which they send to America wherewith to purchase tobacco, 1764. and where they must pay a great proportion of the bills drawn on them from America. Though the prices at which these two merchants both buy their goods and sell their tobacco are nominally the same, yet upon the whole transaction the profits of the one are necessarily 2 p. cent., perhaps 4 p. cent. less than those of the other.⁸

These Optional Clauses, besides, may sometimes put it in the power of a capricious Banking Company to ruin the credit of the best established merchant in Scotland. A Scotch merchant accepts a bill, which is drawn on him at a short date, for £500, and upon the bill falling due he offers payment in bank notes, the common currency of the country; but, as these bank notes neither are, nor can ever, with propriety, be made a legal tender of payment, the creditor refuses to accept of them as such. The merchant then goes to the Bank to demand money in exchange for these bank notes; the Bank takes advantage of the Optional Clause, and puts him off for six months; if the creditor is positive and peremptory, therefore, this merchant, though worth £50,000, may be obliged to stop payment for a single bill of £500; for such is the present state of money in Scotland, that he may not always be able to find, even in the most opulent city of the kingdom, other people who are both able and willing to exchange these bank notes into money.⁹

While these Optional Clauses are tolerated, and while the other Banking Companys in Scotland make use of these dilatory methods of payment, to which the general use of such clauses unavoidably gives occasion, it is impossible for any one or two Banks or Banking Companies, which pay all their notes with readiness when presented, to carry on their business

⁸ If a French merchant can buy bills on Glasgow cheaper than on Whitehaven, I say that then the Glasgow merchants will make him pay dearer for his tobacco upon that account; and if he can not buy a bill on Glasgow cheaper, that circumstance proves that the Glasgow currency is as good as that of Whitehaven; and if the Glasgow merchant pays dearer for the goods he buys at London, he draws back the difference by the price of his tobacco. Trade ballances all such inequalities in the value of currencies.

⁹ This paragraph shews the indispensable necessity of removing the Optional Clause.

1764. with advantage. The facility of procuring money from the well disposed Companies will make every body eager to pick up their notes, in order to exchange them for gold and silver. This particular sett of notes will therefore soon be removed from the circulation, and the notes of the other Companies will be left in their stead; and if the well disposed Companies should issue these notes again, by discounting bills payable at home in one or two months,—these bills not being paid in money, but chiefly in the bank notes of the other Companies, which are at least $1\frac{1}{4}$, sometimes $3\frac{1}{4}$ p. cent. inferior in value to money, or to the bank notes of these well disposed Companies, which, by the promptness of their payment, are equal to money,—a proportionable loss of at least $1\frac{1}{4}$ p. cent., sometimes more, must be sustained by these Companies upon every such operation. The same loss must be repeated every time that any merchant draws upon and pays into the cash account which these well disposed Companies allow him, and these are generally weekly and often daily operations.¹⁰

¹⁰ The reasoning in this paragraph, I am afraid, is not solid. It contains two propositions: the first, that the notes of the well disposed Banking Companies will be removed from circulation. This I deny. Every man who has a ready money demand upon him will choose to pay with these notes preferable to any other, because he is sure they will be readily accepted of; consequently he will never part with them gratuitously to those who have no ready money demands on him, in exchange for others of less value (as they are called); and therefore they will not be easily picked up, that is, they will not easily be removed from circulation. Secondly, if it be true, as is supposed, (for I must reason according to the principles here laid down,) that the notes of the well disposed Companies are at least $1\frac{1}{4}$ p. cent. better than the others, will it not follow that all discounters of bills, or such as want to have bank credits, will choose to deal with these Banks preferable to any others? This certainly will support their circulation, in spite of all returns.

The second inconveniency is, that, when the bills discounted come to be pay'd, that payment will be made in other banks.

To this I answer, that, as the payment of the bills is as *regular and progressive* as the discounting of the bills, the other Companies must either pay their notes in cash on demand, or at the end of six months. Suppose the latter: then all the loss the well disposed Companies can suffer is the advance of the coin for the first six months, which certainly is not a great object.

But, to close these remarks: I beg of these bankers to consider that the Bank of

An Act of Parliament, it is apprehended, is the proper remedy for all 1764. these inconveniences, in which, upon the following preamble, the clause aftermentioned may be enacted.

PREAMBLE.

Whereas many inconveniences have arisen, and may hereafter arise, by issuing promissary notes in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, by banks or bankers, or other persons, payable to the bearer, containing Optional Clauses, by which a power is reserved to the drawer or drawers, or other persons by whom payable, of postponing payment for six months after a demand is made, upon allowing interest: and whereas such notes are now become the common and usuall circulating money in Scotland, whereby the credit of the country has greatly suffered, and notes have fallen under the parr of gold and silver coin, by which the exch^{ce} has been raised between the two parts of the United Kingdom, to the great hurt of the trade and manufactures of Great Britain, for remedying of these evils, &c.

STATUTORY CLAUSES.

Be it enacted, that, from and after the first day of in the present year, it shall not be lawfull for any Bank or banker, or any other person or persons whatever, to issue notes of that or any posterior date, payable to the bearer, containing Optional Clauses,¹¹ by which a power is

England (whom they suppose to enjoy advantages which they are deprived of,) does in reality groan under a still greater load, from the present confusion of the nation's coin. They pay their notes on demand; but in what way are they supplied with coin for that purpose? They have been, these several years past, obliged to buy gold in the London market at £4:0:8^d. per ounce on many occasions; and this they carry to the Mint, who deliver them weight for weight in guineas; which guineas again they must give away in payment of notes at no higher value than £3:17:10^½d. which is the denomination answering to an ounce of heavy guineas: here is a loss of 5 per cent. yet that Company has never been heard to complain: they know the loss is unavoidable.

All bankers, therefore, in Great Britain, must labour equally under an inconveniency which nothing can remove but a new regulation of the coin of the nation.

¹¹ [The Optional Clauses were prohibited accordingly, by Act of Parliament, in this year, 1764.—Ed.]

1764. reserved to the drawer or drawers, or other persons by whom payable, of postponing payment after a demand is made.

Be it also enacted, that, from and after six months from the passing of the present Act, it shall not be lawfull for the drawer or drawers of any notes payable to the bearer, and containing Optional Clauses, by which a power is reserved of postponing payment for six months, or any other time less or more, or for any other person by whom such notes shall be payable, to refuse payment on demand; but all such notes shall be held and deem'd payable upon demand only, notwithstanding any such Optional Clauses.

And, for ascertaining the more ready and punctual payment of all notes that may have been or hereafter shall be issued, payable to the bearer as aforesaid, and to prevent evasive and unnecessary delays in payment, be it enacted, that all notes as aforesaid shall be presented for payment on any lawfull day, and within the customary hours of business, at the place where payable, shall be paid in good and lawfull money of Great Britain, on the day on which they are presented for payment, as aforesaid; or, on refusal, to be instructed by a protest taken by a notary in presence of witnesses, if the said refusal of payment shall appear, to any court competent, to arise from the dilatory or evasive disposition of the drawer or drawers, their agents, servants, or other persons by whom payable, and not from real insolvency, that then the drawer or drawers, or other persons by whom such notes shall be payable, shall pay full damages, besides triple costs of suit.

CIX.

THOUGHTS CONCERNING BANKS, AND THE PAPER CURRENCY OF SCOTLAND.¹ WITH NOTES BY SIR JAMES STUART OF COLTNESS.

The advantages and disadvantages of Banks, and of paper money, have been more the object of people's consideration in Scotland of late than

¹ [It does not appear by whom the text of this, or the preceding MS. was drawn up: probably by Mr. Ingram or Mr. Glassford. But see No. cxi.—Ed.]

usual, and there have been several short Essays published on the subject. 1764. Every one is at liberty to throw out his thoughts to the publick, who will judge for themselves, whether the advantages preponderate over the disadvantages or not; and the more clear and distinct the arguments are which are offered, either in favour of paper money or against it, the reader is the better enabled to judge rightly of its usefulness, or the contrary.

If paper money shall be made to serve the whole purposes of real money, and at all times easily and freely command it when wanted, it must be of advantage to any nation, altho' such paper money shall not be current out of such nation. Suppose that, before the introduction of this paper money into that nation, the gold and silver necessary for its circulation is four millions, and that two millions of paper money can be substituted in the place of the half of this gold and silver; this would enable the nation to pay off two millions of debt,² owing to any other countries, if it was indebted to other countries; or if it was not so indebted, would enable it to lend two millions abroad to such countries as wanted to borrow; and if interest was got for it at the rate of five

² The use of Banks does not extend near so far in multiplying the circulating value in a country as is commonly believed.

It has here been said, that, by establishing a Bank, a nation may pay off debt; the shortest reflection will discover the fallacy of this proposition.

If the Bank shall, with its notes, pay any part of the nation's debt, does not the Bank itself still remain debtor for these notes? and as the notes are in that case thrown into the hands of the nation's creditors, without being demanded for the use of circulation, will they not recur upon the Bank, and draw away a proportional part of the ready money of their stock, which never can be redemanded but from the State, who therefore remains debtor as before?

If the Bank shall employ a part of their specie in paying off their own debt, that operation must create a blank, either in the capital stock of the Bank, or in the value they have received for the notes issued. If the blank is made in the stock, it has the same effect as if that stock had been originally so much less; if in the value received for the notes, what equivalent remains with the Bank to answer these notes? And, whenever a Bank comes to have more notes in circulation than they have an equivalent value for, in one species of property or another, such Bank is, in fact, non solvendo, and is bankrupt to the public; although such bankruptcy be not discovered for a long time.

1764. p. cent. p. annum, would bring £100,000 yearly of profit, procured by the introduction of the two millions of paper money, which it is always supposed serves all the purposes of real money, in the nation where it was issued; and it will serve all these purposes, if it is allowed that a proportion of the remaining two millions of gold and silver, in the hands of a Bank and private bankers, will be a sufficient fund at all times to pay such part of the paper money issued by the Bank and bankers as will be demanded from time to time;³ or in any emergency where it may be insufficient, if you'll allow that part of the two millions lent to other

³ This last paragraph is to be understood of the payment of a real debt owing by the Bank itself. For if the Bank shall pay with its superfluous coin any part of the nation's debt, then they have the nation's security for the money paid, which security will always ballance the notes. But if the Bank pays its own debts, or if a State be the banker, and pay its own debts, it is plain it can then have no security for the money paid; since the creditor's discharge (which is all they get in return) can be of no value to anybody but the debtor himself. From this it appears that there can be no interest saved to a State by the establishment of a Bank, unless the State itself be the banker; and in that case it is much safer to let the debts stand out, and to lend a sum equivalent to them, the interest of which may be applied towards the payment of the interest of the debts; because in that case the Bank has still the security of the debtors, to answer all the paper in circulation, which cannot be the case where the debts are pay'd off.

If a Bank shall lend to foreigners on good security, the interest paid on such a loan is then so much gained to the nation lending; and the security itself is a collateral pledge for all notes issued at home. If notes are issued for promoting industry, (being also issued on good security), the stock of the circulating fund of the nation, (which, before the institution of their Bank, was confined to the specie), is thereby augmented by this ingenious invention; for when notes are issued, (upon land security let me suppose,) the consequence is, that the land, an unwieldy property, is made as it were to circulate in the notes which are secured upon it. The great utility, therefore, of Banks is this: That every person who is possessed of solid property can command a circulating value for it in paper; this supplies the use of coin, which cannot at all times be found to borrow; this encourages industry on the one hand, and facilitates consumption on the other; and, in proportion as the circulating fund in coin or in paper money is found to increase, we may conclude, that, in the same proportion, industry and consumption are augmenting also; because currency must be in proportion to alienation for ready money, and alienation marks either industry or consumption. Where, therefore, the circulating value in a nation cannot be augmented at will, there industry and consumption must be at a stand. No man can buy with ready money, who has neither coin nor paper to give as a price.

countries can be called home 'till such emergency is over. While, there- [1764. fore, by the aid of paper money, two millions are lent abroad, the interest of that sum must be gained to this supposed nation, whether the Bank and bankers, or any other individuals in the nation, or partly the one and partly the other, shall draw this interest.

This fact being admitted, it will appear that paper money may be of great benefit to a country; at sametime, it must be admitted that it is liable to abuse, which may make it very prejudicial. If so, it is a publick benefit when under proper regulation, but may be a public grievance when not properly regulated.

The truth of the first position is so far confirmed as can be deduced from the practice and experience of the greatest commercial kingdoms and states in Europe that are blessed with a free government, where Banks and bankers have subsisted for many ages, and trade at sametime has flourished under their influence, and, on the whole, has greatly increased.⁴ Arbitrary governments are indeed banefull to the credit of Banks and of paper money.

The credit of the Bank of England, founded in real money and prompt payment, has long remained unshaken, even in the times of the greatest scarcity of money in the kingdom. This Bank has been such a support, both to publick and private credit, as may seem incredible to such as have not had access to know not only the sums advanced to the Government, but the immense sums in private bills discounted by it for the conveniency of the merchants, and which, besides supplying the British merchant, has at times lent noble aids to people in other nations in amity with Britain, by discounting their bills, when not to be done at home. This Bank keeps the cash of merchants, whose orders are paid readily to the extent of the money so lodged. It issues bills or promissary notes, which always meet prompt payment when demanded. The private bankers in different parts of London and Westminster, and in the principal trading towns of England, do, in like manner with the Bank, discount bills to a very large extent. They keep the cash of noblemen,

⁴ Banks have assisted these States in running in debt, but never in getting out of it.

1764. gentlemen, merchants, and traders, and issue bills or promissary notes, all in same manner as the Bank, which bills or notes always find prompt payment. The usefulness of the Bank and private bankers of England is universally acknowledged, and there is business for all of them ; indeed, very often a great many more good bills are offered them to be discounted than they all find proper or chuse to discount. The Bank of England has no monopoly of issuing bills or notes, nor pretends to any. It allows the private bankers in the city and other towns to follow the same branches of business with itself, without attempting to procure any law for restricting them as to the extent of their business, or the sums to be inserted in their promissary notes ; far less for restraining them altogether. It makes no mean attempts of ruining or distressing private bankers by narrow-minded and invidious runs ; it pays more regard both to them and to the publick, which would share in the distress brought on the first, and perhaps the publick would not, without a proper resentment, bear such attempts even from the Bank of England.

It seems not too much to take it for granted, that those countries that have long excelled their neighbours in trade and commerce, and in which the same continues to be carried on to the greatest extent, are the best judges of what is for the interest of a trading country. If so, and that they have all along felt the usefulness of Banks and private bankers, and of their paper money, it must be a strong presumption in favours of these. That they do feel their usefulness is seen by the visible effects of their trade thriving so well under them, and by the legislative powers of these free kingdoms and States taking no steps to suppress and abolish them. And, allowing that sometimes a Bank or private bankers, by uncommon accidents, have stopp'd in different countries, even this, which at first view seems an argument against them, furnishes an argument in favour of paper credit : that notwithstanding such accidents, yet so great is its use, that trading countries so soon get over such misfortunes as they have done, and that paper credit very soon rises superior to these obstacles. How much more wou'd the salutary effects of paper money be felt in Scotland, where its two Banks and present private Companies of bankers are on a bottom so safe for the country, that the most benign influences

might be derived from them, was it not for some latent cause that prevents it, which 'tis necessary to discover and remove. 1764.

If the circulating money necessary for Scotland is a million and a half, and if, instead of so much gold and silver, there is one million of paper money introduced in its place, if this paper money was under proper regulation, and served all the purposes of real money, there must, from what is already said, be a saving to Scotland of £50,000 yearly, (allowing the interest of money to be five p. cent.); and that, whether Scotland pays debt with this million, or lends it on interest to another country, or (as might also be added) purchases new implements of husbandry, the raw materials of manufactures, or in any other way supplies therewith the means of improving its agriculture, manufactures, or commerce. But instead of this profit arising to Scotland from this substitution of paper money in place of an equal sum of gold and silver, 'tis to be feared that, by some unlucky manœuvre, this profit is forgone, and that the loss which may arise to a trading country from paper money, not under proper regulation, is exemplified in Scotland, and in Scotland only; and if this country is the single instance of its being of publick loss, may it not be suspected that the cause is also singular?

The too large proportion of paper money to specie, but chiefly the great difficulty of procuring gold or silver in payment of this paper, and the apprehended risque of losing by the paper money of such Companies as may hereafter be erected on weaker bottoms than such as already subsist in Scotland, deservedly draw the attention of the publick,⁵ as all

⁵ The abuses here enumerated may easily be prevented by the authority of a State, who attends to the principles upon which all banking is established.

Those principles are two, and it is the duty of government so to watch over bankers as to prevent their acting contrary to them for the sake of gain.

The first is, that no notes be issued but upon solid security.

The second, that the bankers be obliged to keep coin sufficient to answer all demands.

In consequence of the first, all commerce, excepting particular branches specified by Parliament, is proscribed to the Bank of England.

A Bank which issues notes upon the slender personal security of merchants and manufacturers, (who by misfortunes may be reduced to beggary,) without any solid collateral pledge, ought to have no better credit than those to whom they lend.

1764. ranks of people are concerned in the consequences. It is a subject worthy of the consideration of the noblemen and gentlemen in all the different counties at their stated meetings; and by the advertisements of late in the publick newspapers, it appears, that the Freeholders and Justices of the Peace of some counties have taken resolutions to refuse, after a fixed day, the promissary notes of all other Companies than those established at Edinburgh by publick authority, expecting that this will remedy the evils already felt, and prevent the further evils to be apprehended from the variety and increase of paper money.

The Bank of England is forbid to trade, not with a view to circumscribe their profits, but to prevent their risking that value which they have received for their notes, which in reality is not their property, but the property of the nation, as long as the notes issued for it remain in circulation.

It is not, therefore, sufficient, that the Bank be satisfied with the securities they take; the nation must be so too; for they, in fact, not the Bank, are the real creditors.

From this principle we may conclude, that such private bankers as issue notes upon their own security, (and indeed all bankers whatever,) ought to be obliged to keep books open to the inspection of the public: 1^{mo}. because they are debtors to every man in the kingdom who possesses any of their notes; 2^{do}. because, under the authority of Government, they reap a very considerable profit, in being debtors without paying interest; and 3^{do}. because there is no other method to secure the nation from the consequences of their mismanagement or misfortunes.

When Banks are authorised by statute, that statute should regulate the securities to be taken by the Bank, and order so large a deposit of Bank stock to be provided as to make it morally impossible that any loss upon the banking trades should be able to absorb it.

I do not mean by this that the Bank stock ought to be equal to the sum of the notes in circulation. That would be absurd. The stock is but a collateral security against losses or mismanagement. The first and principal security is the pledge given for the notes when issued by the Bank, together with the interest constantly paid for all the paper in circulation.

From the second principle, viz. that bankers ought to be obliged to keep coin sufficient to answer all demands, we may conclude, that, if the profits arising from the interest of all the notes in circulation is not sufficient to defray the charge of management and the expense of providing coin, the country where such a Bank is established, either has no occasion for a Bank, or the Bank has not sufficient credit.

When the coin in a country is sufficient for circulating all ready money demands, there is no occasion for a Bank; when it is not, and that a demand for it is daily increasing, the Bank becomes of infinite advantage. Further:

Whether these resolutions have resulted wholly from a persuasion of 1764. this being the best remedy to the disease, or have partly been owing to the influence of the two Banks at Edinburgh, is of less importance than it is to consider whether they are likely to produce the desired effect ; or, allowing them to be productive of it, whether or not it wou'd be equally for the interest of the country, as a measure here to be suggested, or only for the particular benefit of the two Banks at Edinburgh.

Before considering these two points, it may not be amiss to observe, that, as the city of Glasgow, besides the sums given yearly to all parts of

As long as there is a balance due by the country where the Bank is established to places where their notes have no currency, the Bank may lay its account with having occasion for coin equal to that balance—because those who owe this balance will demand the payment of notes to that extent. This demand will diminish the quantity of notes formerly issued for carrying on domestic circulation : this blank will produce a new demand for notes, and the interest upon these notes must defray the expence of procuring the coin necessary for paying this balance.

When the country owes no balance, or so soon as the balance has been paid, the quantity of coin necessary for circulation must be very small, especially where the notes are for small sums, and when the credit of the Bank is indisputably good.

It is no argument against keeping open books that such a regulation may hurt the credit of the Bank. The more it hurts the credit of a Bank, the more it is necessary. Banks are tolerated for the conveniency of the nation, not of the bankers.

Under these regulations, paper money never can go beyond the due proportion it ought to bear to ready money demands, (which is what is meant by circulation,) nor to the coin of a nation.

Every man who has a good security to pledge may have bank credit ; and it becomes the interest and the indispensable duty of the Bank to keep coin sufficient for answering all demands.

Coin does not rain down from heaven, nor does it come into a country by accident. The Mint is always open, and whoever has any species of value whatever, may turn that value into gold and silver, which the Mint will convert into coin.

All the specie which has been coined since the beginning of the last war has been coined by the Bank of England, at an expence of three or four p^r. cent. to that Company, altho' coinage costs nothing. This may appear a paradox, but it is truth for all that, as the Bank of England well knows.

Banking can never flourish in Scotland until there be a Mint set a going ; and, when that is done, a market for bullion will open at Edinburgh, because a demand for it will then take place.

1764. the neighbouring country for provisions to its inhabitants, (greatly increased in numbers by the increase of trade and manufactures of that city,) which has raised the value of lands all around it, also gives such large sums yearly to the different, even most remote corners of Scotland, for their manufactures, it seems not the best return thereto to attempt to deprive them of a branch of business of which the two Banks have no monopoly, but which is left open to them by law; or to endeavour to prevent that city from paying for these very manufactures in its own notes—a species of money which, in the general opinion of that city and neighbourhood, has produced great advantages to their trade, by which the whole country has been gainers, and would have produced more, if the paper money of Scotland in general had been under proper regulation.⁶

It is much to be doubted whether these resolutions of some of the counties will prevent the currency of the promissary notes of private

⁶ In the infancy of commerce, the utility of Banks is inexpressible.

They cannot then be too much multiplied, nor too much diffused over a country, *provided they be made to stand on solid security*. On this all depends. The breaking of one Bank, as matters now stand, might cast such a discredit on paper money in general as might, by its consequences, bring Scotland to the brink of ruin. What madness is it, therefore, to suffer the banking scheme to go on as it does, without proper limitations. Let Banks be every where properly established, but let the interest of Scotland and the bankers, and not that of the bankers alone, be the point in view.

The extent of ready money demands must then always circumscribe the quantity of paper money; and all the difference will be, that the debtors in this paper will be found in every corner of the country, instead of being found in a few of our principal towns. In that case the competition between the Banks will in a great measure cease: those of Glasgow, for example, will be found more convenient for the circulation of that neighbourhood than any other; and so of the rest. Profits will be divided; bankers, in place of forcing their notes into circulation, will wait with patience until they are called for; every Company will do honor to their own notes, or to those of such Companies as they may be in friendship with. Time perhaps may bring about a coalition of the whole; and, as the security will be unquestionable, who knows but their notes may obtain a circulation in England; for, since the draughts of our merchants circulate upon the 'Change of London, I can see no reason why notes payable to bearer on demand should not obtain an equal credit. All dealers in bills of exchange no doubt will find an interest in preventing this communication of credit; but public utility will soon get the better of that opposition.

Companies, unless these noblemen and gentlemen shall very generally 1764. persist in the refusal of them, and with a greater degree of firmness than is to be expected when payments of their rents shall be offered, partly, in the notes of private Companies of whose security they themselves are well satisfied, and at sametime not having other money to put in their place. This appears to be evinced in the shire of Aberdeen, where sometime ago it was resolved, that the notes of the private Companies would not be received after the first of November in this year, which day is now elapsed; yet the notes of such Companies as had a circulation before that day continue to be circulated as freely as ever. A few weeks will probably show these resolutions to be equally ineffectual in other counties; but allowing them to produce the effect, let us see in how far the country wou'd be benefited thereby.

It is certain that, if the currency of all paper money in Scotland was to be suppressed, excepting that of the two Banks, they wou'd be great gainers; not only by having all the profits arising from the whole circulation of paper, but in having these profits clear of the additional expense to which they perhaps are at present injudiciously putting themselves, by their endeavours to abridge or suppress the currency of other paper money. They wou'd thus have a monopoly of a branch of business left open in the other part of the United Kingdom, and also now left open to Scotland. But shall we, less wise than our neighbours in England, of our own accord, confer this monopoly on them to the prejudice of all others that do, or may follow the same business, however solid and other-ways well qualified for carrying it on, making a distinction betwixt the people of England and those of Scotland, that is not founded either in nature or in the laws? Allowing, however, that the two Banks had this monopoly, and that, of the supposed million of paper circulating in Scotland, there is £750,000 of it in the notes of the two Banks, and £250,000 in those of the other private Companies, and that, in place thereof, this last sum, by the suppression of all these private Companies, is added to the first, and that the two Banks have the whole circulation of a million all in their own paper; will this make gold and silver plentier than at present, or diffuse even silver so equally as is now done by the

1764. addition of the Glasgow Companies? in which town and neighbourhood silver change is as easily come at as any where in Scotland, and there are few places in England where it can be more easily had. Will this insure the publick that the two Banks will not, as much as formerly, trifle in their payments? Will the holders of one of their notes, for the small sum of five pounds, be more certain of procuring with ease gold and silver than of late? or that they will always with readiness pay even a twenty shilling note? Will the English trader, or other holder of the notes of one of these Banks, who wants to remitt their value to England, be better insured than of late, that it will not avail itself of the liberty assumed by the Optional Clause to defer payment for six months with six months' interest, if such holder, altho' willing to take either specie or bills upon London at moderate rates, refuses bills at such dates as it pleases to offer? Will this monopoly prevent the present degradation of paper money below the par of gold and silver? or prevent the English merchant or tradesman from making Scotland pay, in the price of what goods are sent there, this difference betwixt the value of real and paper money? which is in effect laying a tax on such English produce or manufactures as are sent to Scotland, and which, altho' Scotland must pay this tax, may be deemed in England an unconstitutional tax, if any is such.

If 'tis alledged that the security of the Banks is better than that of any private Companies, it is admitted that their security is very good, altho' the proprietors are not bound to the publick⁷ further than the extent of their respective shares of the Bank stock. Each of these Societies has a stock large enough to ascertain sufficient security for the payment of their notes. But without detracting from the security of the

⁷ The public has for its security not only the Bank stock of those which are established by authority, but also the whole securities taken by them for the notes issued.

Upon the other hand, the private bankers, in place of the stock, are bound to the whole extent of their estates, real and personal.

But in order to be able to judge fairly between the parties, these estates should be known; and not only that, but they should be pledged in warrandice for payment of their notes, with a preference to all contractions of debt by the proprietors. Without these two conditions they cannot be with propriety weighed in the balance against the stock of a Bank established by authority.

two Banks in Scotland, that given to the publick by the Glasgow Com- 1764.
panies is thought noways inferior to that of either of these Banks; these Companies having given to the country, not only the security of the stock advanced by the Partners, but to the whole extent of the fortune of each Partner; and altho' some of these are merchants, which is also the case with great numbers of the Partners or Proprietors of both Banks, yet these different Companies employ no part of their respective publick stocks in trade, nor expose their stock to other risques than those to which the stocks of the two Banks are exposed. And in each Company there are several gentlemen of well known, good, and unentail'd estates, who are Partners, and bound as above mentioned. The following proposal will also further ascertain the public of additional safety in the notes, as well of the two Banks, as of the Glasgow Companies, and which is humbly offer'd to the consideration of all ranks, as being a surer check on the increase and precariousness of paper money than the county resolutions lately publish'd, and which will immediately cure the whole evils above mentioned.

The remedy proposed is a law to prevent the Banks and private Bankers in Scotland from taking the benefit, after a fixed day, of the Optional Clause in all their notes already issued, and to prevent the insertion of such Clause in all notes to be hereafter issued, by which the Banks and Bankers may chuse to pay in six months, with interest, in place of making payment on demand; that so, in all time coming, the paper money of Scotland may be always payable on demand, and without triffling. It is apprehended that it is to this Optional Clause that all the real evils that have arisen in Scotland from paper money are owing, and that its removal will be a security not only against an increase of these evils, but all return of them to the degree already felt; as weak Companies of Bankers will not probably venture, after such law, to issue notes, nor find it easy to keep them out in the country after being issued, whilst they were not deemed safe and equal to the real money which it would be in the power of the country always to command for them.

N.B.—The Memorial^s may be here introduced.

^s [Probably the same, or similar to that embodied in No. cviii.—Ed.]

CX.

LORD PRIVY SEAL TO BARON MURE.

Burlington Street, 2^d Febr. 1764.

Dear Mure,

I have now lying before me several letters of your's, the last of which is dated the 27 past, I think, all which I shall here endeavour to answer. In the first of them you say, "I did not know you were to take such a charge of the College of Glasgow as your uncle¹ did." My answer is, I never intended it; but, when there is a vacancy likely to happen in a Professorship in the gift of his M^{ty} it is highly proper that I should be apprised of it in time. This, I understood, was the case by Professor Wight's² removal to Mr. Smith's Chair; consequently I wished to hear of it in time. Now to that point: Mr. Smith³ tells me that his recommendation of Mr. Young was merely to teach his class this winter, and nothing more; so that his application to the College does not stand in the way at all; but, as to who the College will prefer to Mr. Smith's Chair, all I have to say in it is, *Detur digniori*. It is of great consequence, and I have but a single wish that the properest person⁴ may be placed in it: that done, I care not one farthing what his name and surname is.

I remember your application for the parish of Yarrow, tho' the *only resident heritor* has made strong application to me for another person. This you'll allow ought to have weight; however, I believe I shall get the better of my scruples in your favour. As to the affair of the Banks, which you, the people of Glasgow, and many others, seem to apprehend greatly, you need not, I assure you; for, in the first place, their demands are by no means what they have been represented; and, in the next

¹ Archibald, Duke of Argyll.

² Now Professor of Church History.

³ Adam Smith, Professor of Moral Philosophy, the distinguished Author of the "Wealth of Nations." See No. LXXXIV.

⁴ The celebrated Dr. Thomas Reid was appointed.

place, I believe 'tis impossible for the Legislature to apply a remedy to 1764. an evil now threatening,⁵ which, if it should happen, would give a most severe blow to all the commerce and to the most part of the landed interests in Scotland; so that I imagine things will remain pretty much in *statu quo*; but you need not publish this, any further than to hint, that the great alarm taken has mighty little or rather no foundation at all.

Mr. David Moncrieff need be under no uneasiness, as the report he has heard of Mr. Hamilton getting his brother S^r. Hew Dalrymple's reversion of Remembrancer never had, that I know of, the very smallest foundation; and indeed it was most highly improbable it ever should. By the bye, I hope David Moncrieff will exert his utmost in support of Col^l. Græme⁶ towards his being chosen for Perthshire, as the Col. has the entire approbation of his Majesty's servants in that undertaking.

I think I have now answered all your letters by this very long one; so adieu, dear Baron. I hear you are going to ruin my industrious little

⁵ This may possibly allude to the symptoms, which are said to have shown themselves in this year, of the subsequent mental derangement of George III. (?)

⁶ Colonel, afterwards General David Græme of Gorthy; elected for Perthshire in this year, in the room of John Murray of Strowan, who had succeeded to the Dukedom of Atholl. This gentleman, a relation of Mrs. Mure, had obtained notoriety as the negotiator of George III.'s marriage with the Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg. The following is Horace Walpole's account of his services:—"One Col. Græme was dispatched in the most private manner, as a traveller, and vested with no character, to visit various little Protestant Courts, and make report of the qualifications of the several unmarried Princesses. Beauty, and still less talents, were not, it is likely, the first object of his instructions. On the testimony of this man, the golden apple was given to the Princess of Mecklenburgh, and the marriage precipitately concluded. The ambassador was too remarkable not to be further mentioned. This Græme, then, was a notorious Jacobite, and had been engaged in the late Rebellion. On a visit he made to Scotland, his native country, after this embassy, David Hume, the historian, said to him, 'Colonel Græme, I congratulate you on having exchanged the dangerous employment of making Kings for the more lucrative province of making Queens.'"—Memoirs of Reign of George III. Vol. i. Chap. v. p. 65. In spite of Walpole's sneers, the impartial student of British history, in the present day, whatever his general opinion of Lord Bute's merits as a Minister, will estimate in a very different manner the services rendered to his country, both in *preventing* the King's marriage with Lady Sarah Lennox (ridiculed by Walpole in the same chapter of his work,) and in *securing* that with the late good Queen Charlotte.

1764. town of Cowpar in Angus, by encouraging the little villages in the neighbourhood with having stamp masters for the linnen establishment⁷ in several of them. If it be for the real good of the country, I shall certainly applaud the scheme; but, should it be mere matter of favour, I have at least an equal right with others to claim the benefit.

CXI.

MEMORANDA FOR LORD PRIVY SEAL.¹

A new election law much wanted—the intention of promoting it highly approved; might it not be proper to call ———, in order to converse with them on the subject?

The communication between the two seas,² the greatest national work, next to the Union of the two kingdoms, that ever was undertaken for this country.

It will greatly differ from the other in this respect, that men of all denominations will think alike concerning it, and give equal praise to the Administration under whose influence it is performed.

It may be executed from Scotch funds alone, from the produce of the annexed Estates, part of which might be mortgaged to pay the interest of the capital, and be thus secured to a most beneficial application in all time coming.

The plans and estimate to be sent up to L. B.³ How?

The Glasgow Bank, Sir James Maxwell, James Ritchie, and Comp^y distinguished themselves by being the first movers for leaving out the Optional Clause, and sent a memorial containing their reasons in support of that measure to every Member of Parl^t for this country.

They now propose to make all their notes payable on demand, if his

⁷ See below, No. cxiii.

¹ In Baron Mure's hand.

² The Forth and Clyde Canal.—See No. cli. seq.

³ Lord Bute.

Majesty will give them a patent for carrying on the business. They 1764.
mean that patent to extend no further than to erect them into a Company
that can sue and be sued, and that their notes might be signed by their
Secretary or Cashier, in place of the tedious manner now used by two
Partners and that officer likewise.

Sir James Stuart.

Sir John Stuart.

The situation of the Town of Edinburgh.

Of the Clergy and University.

The Dean of the Chapel Royal.

Campbell of Springfield, Landwaiter at Rothsay.

New Commission.

New Minister at Rothsay.

&c. &c.

[Here follows a long list of lesser offices, with names of persons
qualified to fill them.]

CXII.

LORD PRIVY SEAL, TO BARON MURE.

Burlington Street, 11 Feb. 1764.

Dear Mure,

I wrote you lately a long letter, since which I have yours of the
4th inst. with the petition from Rothsay, which I have given to Mr.
Jenkinson to lay before the Treasury. It has occurred to me, (since
the present D. of Atholl has taken the ill judged step he has done,) that
Lord Kames might perhaps prevail on Blair Drummond to renounce
thoughts of standing,¹ and release the Duke from all engagements he has
entered into with him on that score. A proposition of this sort must
come from the man to whom promises are made, and not from him who
made 'em, and stands bound to fulfill them. To raise a flame in the

¹ In opposition to Colonel Græme.—See No. cx. Note 6.

1764. country for Drummond to come into Parl^t at 60 year old, just married to a young wife, to have agreeable society at home, is, in my mind, as absurd a project as ever I heard of. Let me add, too, in confidence, what cannot well be said, but what every body must feel, namely, that all this bustle and opposition is to be made to the first person belonging to —, who has yet appeared among us as a Candidate, and that person more peculiarly circumstanced² than any other servant can be.

I heard to day that David Moncrieff is just coming up here; I hope he will stay in Scotland, and vote for Col^l Græme, before he thinks of a journey hither; pray let him know that this is my wish. I believe his uncle M^r. Stewart is to write to him by this post on the subject.

I had a letter a day or two ago from our Sheriff, Mr. Swintoun,³ inclosing a small pamphlet, for which I wish you would thank him from me, and at the same time you may hint to him, that the later he can fix the election so much the better, as Col^l Græme's friends are some of them at a great distance, and it would be right to give them all the time possible to come to the election; some of 'em are in Holland, and some at sea, but will probably appear in Perthshire upon this occasion, if time be given 'em. Speak to him immediately about this. Adieu, Dear Baron.

CXIII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Burlington Street, 16 Feb^r. 1764.

Dear Baron,

I have but a single moment to acknowledge your two letters of the 7th and 11 inth. and to tell you that I have received the two quarterly

² See Note to No. CX. as above.

³ John Swinton, Esq. of Swinton, Sheriff of Perthshire, afterwards Lord Swinton of the Court of Session. The pamphlet alluded to was on the Law of Entail. It was not published until 1765.

establishments of Mich^a and Christmas. I wish you would tell your 1764. people that I don't spell my name M^cKenzie, but *Mackenzie*, tho' they insert it in the Establishment in the former manner.

I am sorry to hear that my friend George Young is in the wrong in the petition he has presented to the Trustees.¹ It is possible he may, all men are fallible, but I should fancy my friend Kaimes capable of being ten times on a wrong scent before George Young was once. I have some imperfect notion of the subject in question, and all I desire is, that the good of the country in general may be consulted; and, if there be room for favour, I think I have this preferable title, that I have done more for the improvement of that part of the country, than I believe all the gentlemen thereabouts put together, and that I can show receipts for more thousand pounds laid out on improvements than they can do. This is all I wish to urge on the article of favour, which I am the last man in the world to desire should come in competition with real publick utility.

ADIEU.

CXIV.

MR. CRAWFORD OF AUCHENAIMES TO MR. DAVID ROSS.^{1*}

18 Feb^r. 1764.

Dear Sir,

I wrote to you last post what had passed. The House sate yesterday on the motion of general warrants not being warranted by law, which

¹ This alludes to some difference between the celebrated Lord Kaimes (as an active Member of Commission for Annexed Estates) and Mr. George Young, of Balgershow, (a distinguished linen manufacturer, and a personal friend both of his Lordship and Mr. Mackenzie,) relative to certain new regulations of the Stamp Office affecting that trade. There are, among the Baron's papers, copies of several long letters, or rather dissertations, addressed by Lord Kaimes to Mr. Young on the subject; which, although very characteristic of his Lordship's genius and style, are too much loaded with dry matters of commercial detail, to admit of their being here with propriety inserted.

^{1*} The same, probably, afterwards Lord Ankerville of the Court of Session.

1764. was amended and made more comprehensive, by adding *treasonable* to *sedition* libells; and that, tho' those warrants had been produced, the validity had never been debated in the Court of King's Bench, but that prisoners had been bailed and discharged. After a long debate, this was agreed and adjusted; and then the debate arose whether to come to this resolution or to postpone it for four months, which last was carried, 232 to 218. The argument for the delay was, that the legality of those warrants was now pending before the courts of law, and will be soon determined by the whole Judges, whose opinions could best decide what was law; but, if the warrants were illegal, which was generally supposed, then the Administration promised a bill should be brought in to ascertain and define the liberty of the subject, and that this was more proper and Parliamentary than coming to a hasty resolution, till the decision could be properly considered. The other side press'd the resolution as necessary to satisfy the impatience of the people and to redress the grievance. On this foundation both parties contended which method was most proper and effectual to attain the remedy. All seem'd to admit that those warrants were wanted; but, as either method would do, the struggle appears to be rather for power than to rectify. Your own ideas must suggest the arguments of the speeches, which were numberless. Opposition, you see, is strong, but much disappointed they did not carry their point. It's thought many will return to their colours; others say not, and that opposition will be too strong to go on without some changes. All this I throw out only as report and conjecture. Adieu. We sate till six this morning.

Yours, &c.

P. C.

To Da. Ross, Esq.

CXV.

MR. ELLIOT TO BARON MURE.

London, 22 Feb^r. 1764.

My Dear Sir,

I very sincerely give you joy, and wish you all manner of satisfaction and profit from your additional title of Receiver General;¹ it carries at least an opulent sound with it. Your friend Wood² told me of it before I had your letter. By the way, he acquitted himself with great spirit on his late ridiculous tryal about priviledge. I have several times seen the ambassadors from the Bank, and have also had much conversation with Lords Elibank and Eglinton; the last of whom seems determined to bring in some bill or other against Optional Clauses and small notes.³ For my own part, after all the consideration I can give that matter, it don't seem to me the proper object of Parliamentary interposition; nor indeed can Parliament give any immediate relief. The Optional Clause and the small notes have certainly given a facility to convey the silver and gold more effectually out of Scotland, but they are not the *cause* of this distress. The superior advantage to be made of money here for some time past is the real cause; and when the stocks get to their level and to a proper stability, things will probably return to their natural course again. Small notes and larger credit are at present substitutes for coin. If they were suddenly taken away, you would be reduced to a state of barter and the distress increased. The Optional Clause is so absurd, so contradictory to the idea of banking, and indeed so ambiguous an instrument, that it must drop of itself the moment things a little recover their usual tone. In the mean time, the profit of Banks must be small, or rather their loss considerable. Your small notes are certainly very superior; but,

¹ See Note to No. LXXXVI.

² See No. LXX.

³ See above, No. CVII. and Note 1.

1764. as they have, neither by the law of England nor of Scotland, the advantages of bills of exchange, and are really, by the law of Scotland, no securitys at all, I should think they too must go into disuse when any thing better can be got. However, if Parliament thinks proper, after a certain term, to take away the Optional Clause and prohibit notes below a certain sum, I see no great danger from it; tho' I think it delicate to apply so coarse a remedy as an Act of Parliament to a matter of this kind. We have had a pretty brisk attack last week from Opposition, but I think we have given them an effectual repulse.

Dr. Sir,

Yours ever,

GILB. ELLIOT.

CXVI.

LORD PRIVY SEAL TO BARON MURE.

Burlington Street, 24 Feb. 1764.

Dear Baron,

I have yours of the 16 inst. Rossie had before informed me of what passed between Kaimes and Blair on the subject I wrote to you about.¹ Since it won't do, there is no help for it. It was most absurd in Blair saying that the proposition should come from the Duke to him: the man who receives the promise must release, not the man who gives it ask that release. You say that Mr. Moncrief had wrote to a voter he could influence, and had succeeded; but a material part of the intelligence you forgot, viz. *his name*—very material to me at this distance upon many accounts. You had also forgot, or would not tell me, the name of the Perthshire lady whose husband, a voter, is not yet determined. These half words of information, at 400 miles distance in a pressing affair, are intolerable. But as to the office he and George Clerk want, it is engaged, at the request of the Magistrates of Linlithgow,

¹ See Letter CXII.

Cap^t Lockart Ross, their member, and your friend the Duchess of Hamil- 1764.
ton, who all joined in one recommendation. I told the Duchess that I
would return her good for evil, as I knew she abused me constantly about
the Douglass affair.* Adieu, dear Mure.

CXVII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Burlington Street, 6 March, 1764.

I have now lying before me your several letters, the last of which is
dated the 1st in^{to}. One of them brings me the melancholy news of the
death of our worthy friend poor Will Stuart, an event I most sincerely
lament, as I ever had entertained a warm and friendly regard for him. I
find you are of opinion that the College of Glasgow would like Wight¹ as
a successor to Smith's Chair, but that they would not like Baillie to suc-
ceed Wight. Now I learn, elsewhere, that Wight is very well where he
is,² but knows no more of Smith's branch than he does of the secrets of
state; from all which I naturally draw this inference, that party prevails
in that (supposed) peacefull seminary of learning, as much as it does in
the great political world, and that a man's preferment there does by no
means depend on his fitness for the charge, but on the description he is
of with respect to the heads of the College. But now to Perthshire: I
cannot sufficiently admire your friend Belches, so lately made Presenter of
Signatures in Exchequer,³ and his brother, now going against Government

* The celebrated "Douglas cause," between her son the Duke of Hamilton, and the
father of the present Lord Douglas, then both minors.

¹ See above, Nos. LXXXIV. and CX. Dr. Thomas Reid succeeded Adam Smith.

² He remained where he was, accordingly, Professor of Church History, until 1778.
He was then appointed Professor of Divinity, as successor to Baillie above mentioned, who
had obtained the same Chair on the death of Dr. Traill in 1775.

³ See No. LXIII.

1764. for the favor received. All I shall say is, I am sorry he has the opportunity of being ungratefull. As to the other *faithful* servants of H.M. in that county, all in good time; we shall see how these matters will pass. I like the example they give no more than you do, I promise you. As to your idea of poor Will Stewart's office for Lord Glasgow, if I were with you, I would show you in a moment that it is a wild one. ADIEU.

CXVIII.

LORD BUTE TO BARON MURE.

Luton Park, March 9, 1764.

Dear Baron,

Tho', in the course of nature, I ought to have been prepar'd for the blow you acquaint me with, yet I own my worthy dear friend's¹ death goes to my heart,—the only remaining legacy of my father, out of five or six, all of whom lov'd me with that fraternal affection, that inviolable attachment, that this iron age will seldom parallel! Few are the reall friends that fifty years of life has made; for within a twelvemonth I have seen so much, that I blush at my former credulity, and now know that the school of politicks and the possession of power is neither the school of friendship nor the earnest of affection. Attachment, gratitude, love, and reall respect, are too tender plants for Ministerial gardens. Attempt to raise them, and they are either chill'd on their first springing, or, if they once appear, they fade with the very nourishment that is given them; and the unexperienc'd statesman fares exactly like the woman who, by fattening too much her hen, lost all her eggs. I am glad you think of

¹ "Will Stewart," described by his Lordship in an earlier Letter, of date 1757, [see No. XL.] as at that time the only surviving friend of his youth. This gentleman appears to have resided in Bute, and was probably a cadet of the Earl's family. He seems also, from the allusion contained in the foregoing Letter, to have held some lucrative office.

coming southward this year. You will probably find me in town, not 1764.
from any business I can have there, but from it suiting better my age
and spirits than a country life, which I have had now six months of.
Luton, for the future, will seldom see me but for a day or two in a week.
Adieu, my dear Baron. My best wishes attend Mrs. Mure and your
young family.

Yours, most sincerely,

BUTE.

My best compliments attend my worthy friend the Chief Baron Ordd.

CXIX.

SIR JAMES STUART OF COLTNESS TO BARON MURE.

Edr. Ap^l 4th, 1764.

My Dear Sir,

Since you left this, I received a letter from my benefactor.¹ His
fears aboute further delays have greatly abated the desire I had of going
to London at this time, to endeavour to bring my affair to a conclusion.
If it can be of no use to me, I need not spend my money upon the jour-
ney. For God's sake see into it with him, as far as possible. You
know the reasons of my being so impatient: time runs away. I need
not repeat to you my sentiments concerning the great, which you already
know so well.

If it is still impossible to bring it aboute at this period, endeavour at
least to get it understood, betwixt the Ministers and Lord Advocate, that
I am to follow the Par^{mt}. House withoute any body's finding fault with it.
There's another thing which I shou'd be glad you could get done, and
that is to get something said to Lord George Beauclerk, who is sett out

¹ Lord Barrington, a leading statesman of the day, and great personal friend of Sir James. His zeal and influence, in co-operation with that of other friends, were greatly instrumental in obtaining Sir James's pardon. See Note to No. xiv.

1764. this day for London, which will raise all his difficultys. Might not even that order, in itself illegal, be removed? You see I'm still obliged to make use of Fanny's hand, altho' I am a little better, so as to be able to sitt up an hour or two.

Believe me ever most sincerely,

My dear Sir,

Your most affect. and most humble servant,

J^A. STEUART.

To the Hon^{ble}.

Mr. Baron Mure.

CXX.

SIR DAVID CONYNGHAM, BART. OF LIVINGSTONE, TO BARON MURE.

Edin^r. April 9, 1764.

I am, Sir, much ashamed in giving you this trouble; but, as I hope you will be so good as forgive me, I shall directly enter upon the business, and leave the apology till I have the pleasure of meeting you.

The opposition I made at the last general elections to my Lord Hoptoun's interest is generally well known; and, tho' his Lordship's brother was supported by the Duke of Newcastle, L^d Hardwick, and the President of our Court of Session, yet I was only defeated by one vote. I am resolved to try my fate that way once more, being fully persuaded that Mr. Hope's late conduct has not encreased the number of his friends either above or here; of which resolution I beg you to inform such persons from whom I may expect the honour of protection.¹

I shall detain you no longer but by assuring you that I shall be glad of any opportunity of professing myself,

Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

DAVID CUNYNGHAME.

¹ Sir David died in 1767, the year before the general election.

CXXI.

COPY LETTER: BARON MURE TO LORD GLASGOW.¹

[London.]

My Dear Lord,

It is with great pleasure I write to inform you that his Majesty intends to appoint you his Commissioner to the next General Assembly. Mr. Mackenzie (to whose friendship and personal regard for your Lordship your nomination, in opposition to many competitors, is entirely owing,) directed me this day to acquaint you that in a post or two it would be notify'd to you in a more formal manner. Some days ago he was pleased to communicate to me his favourable dispositions towards your Lordship, and his wishes to see you at the head of the Church, and asked my opinion whether or not it would be agreeable to you. I answered, that though, from the intimate knowledge I had of you, I doubted whether the parade part would be entirely to your taste, yet I could not help thinking that such a distinguished mark of his Majesty's favour, and also the business part of the office, could not fail to be highly acceptable. Mr. Mackenzie, without losing a moment's time, proposed you at St. James's to the King's Ministers, and, when assured of their concurrence, directed me to write you this letter.

You may believe, my dear Lord, from our uninterrupted friendship, and my most sincere attachment to your Lordship, 'tis with particular satisfaction I communicate to you this message; and I shall be very sorry if you do not feel in the same manner in regard to it. I hope, before this month is out, to be in the West, and to have the pleasure of seeing you and assisting in maturing your measures.

I beg my compliments to the future Queen of the Kirk, and am, &c. &c.

¹ See Note to No. LXXIII.

CXXII.

COPY LETTER: BARON MURE TO PRINCIPAL ROBERTSON.

April 6, [London.]

Dear Sir,

I am favoured with yours of the 29th March, and have talked to Mr. Mackenzie of the several matters contained in it. He expresses a very just sense of Doctor Wishart's¹ merit, and a sincere desire to testify his regard for it on this occasion; but I find he has long intended to serve Dr. Traill, the Professor at Glasgow, with whom he has been particularly connected, and both he and his brother Lord Bute have, I believe, given him reason to expect some mark of their favour. 'Tis therefore now proposed that Dr. Wishart should have the Deanery, provided that his office of clerk to the Assembly can be obtained for Mr. Traill. Mr. Mackenzie showed me this morning a letter he had wrote to Dr. Wishart, which goes by this post, explaining his views to him in a most candid and friendly manner. I should hope the condition annexed to your friend's advancement may easily enough take place; as his well-wishers, who must be very numerous, and those of the Professor, will be both interested in its success. I am desired by Mr. Mackenzie to recommend to you to exert your influence, and to make use of his name, to have this change brought about. I see there will be some difficulty, both in making the condition public with propriety, and in Dr. Wishart offering to resign, till there be a certainty that the election can be carried for the other. This we must leave to your management, and that of his other friends, with the members, when they come up to Edinburgh. In the meanwhile, I should think the more the matter is kept quiet the better.

Since I began to write, I have received a letter from Dr. Wishart.

¹ A distinguished Scottish divine. See Mackenzie's *Life of John Home*, p. 18, 19.

Pray assure him, with my apology for not answering it, of my esteem 1764. and regard, and of my best wishes and endeavours for that mark of favour being conferred upon him which he so eminently deserves. I must refer you to Mr. Mackenzie's letter to him for a further view of this matter.

CXXIII.

PRINCIPAL ROBERTSON TO BARON MURE.

College of Edin^r. April 12, 1764.

Dear Sir,

Last night I had the honour of your's of the 6th and after considering the scheme proposed in it with all the attention in my power, and conversing fully upon the subject with D^r. Wishart and Jardine,¹ I shall acquaint you with my sentiments with a plainness which I know you will approve of, whether you happen to agree with me in opinion or not. I am happy to find that my Lord Privy Seal has such an opinion of D^r. Wishart's abilities and character as they deserve. I am also highly pleased that my old friend D^r. Traill is in the way of receiving some mark of favour; he is well entitled to it, on account of his merit, both as a clergyman and as a man of letters. But I have great doubts with regard to the mode of serving him which is proposed. As in next Assembly the presentations to Edinburgh and Glasgow are to be tried, there will be a very full meeting, consisting of two hundred members at least. It is impossible to sound the sentiments of such a numerous court, so as to know them with any certainty, without explaining the whole transaction to a great variety of persons. The moment a vacancy in the clerkship is suspected, many candidates will start, as an office worth fourscore pounds a year is a considerable prize among us; and although we have given such attention to the elections, that I am confident we shall have a great majority, and support the measures of law and order against a popular faction, we cannot promise that the same persons who will concur with us in our publick measures, will come into a private trans-

¹ One of the leaders of the *Moderate* party.

1764. action of this kind. Dr. Traill has a living of 150£ a year ; he has no family ; and if any clergyman in indigent circumstances and with a numerous family, (and you know we have abundance of both,) should declare himself a candidate, it would be altogether vain to think of opposing him. The public measures in this Assembly are of great importance to the Police of this country, and I doubt not but, with some attention and address, they may be so conducted as to establish order in the Church, and strengthen Government ; but I should reckon it very unlucky if, while we must endeavour to keep all our friends united in attending to the great object of supporting law, with regard to the two presentations, such a source of discord should be opened as must arise from creating a vacancy in the clerkship at this juncture. I beg leave also to mention another circumstance, that although the great body of the clergy are warmly disposed to support Government, yet we are a jealous order of men, and the interposition of administration in disposing of an office in our own gift, would not have the effect you might be apt to expect. When the collector of the Widows' Fund was named, L^d. Preston-Grange² offered himself a candidate, and though supported by the D. of Argyll, who was then in the plenitude of his power, Mr. Stewart, chiefly from the merit of his being a poor man with ten children, defeated him. Lord Barjarg³ was a candidate for the Clerkship, and had all the interest of the Court, but was obliged to drop it. Mr. Alston in like manner was obliged to relinquish his pretensions to the under Clerkship. I should be sorry then to see the administration attempt, without necessity, an election in which they run the risque of being baffled, if any candidate, who has the circumstances I have mentioned in his favour, shall take the field against them.

Allow me to add to these considerations of a public nature, one which respects Dr. Wishart himself. He, as I understand, made this proposal of resigning his Clerkship, when he was a candidate for the Principality, and he would have been a gainer, if he had succeeded in that claim, of

² Then Mr. Grant, advocate, afterwards raised to the bench as Lord Preston-Grange.

³ Then Mr. Erskine, advocate, of Barjarg and Alva ; afterwards raised to the bench.

thirty or forty pounds, by the exchange. But his Clerkship is of more value than the Deanery by ten pounds a year. In that case it must be disagreeable, and even awkward, for him to think of proposing to his friends or the Church the exchange which has been mentioned. I wish, therefore, that a measure which, I am convinced, is both impracticable and inexpedient, may be laid aside.

I make no apology for expressing my sentiments so strongly. My attachment to the present Administration, and my earnest desire that they should not attempt any thing which may be either declared improper, or prove unsuccessful, make it my duty to represent fairly what my acquaintance with the society of which I am a member gives me an opportunity of knowing thoroughly. I hope this will likewise be my excuse for having written at so great length upon the subject. I am, with great respect and gratitude,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient and most faithful servant,
WILLIAM ROBERTSON.

I wrote you a few posts ago,⁴ that I had got liberty to desire that the presentation to the Canongate might be sent for Mr. Lothian. It must be here before the 25th of April.

CXXIV.

EARL MARISCHALL¹ TO SIR JAMES STUART OF COLTNESS.

[No date.]

Sir Knight,

Please let Mrs. Mure know that I have found a young man of

⁴ This, with various other letters from the same hand, has unfortunately not been preserved.

¹ George Keith, last Earl Marischal of Scotland, was attainted, at an early age, for his share in the Rebellion of 1715, but effected his escape abroad. After some years of

1764. merit, whom I well know, and that for 50 p^{as} a year Mrs. Mure may have him. He is of good parents, a genteel figure, good natured, sober, discreet. He writes a fine hand, understands English, Italian, German, Latin; besides French, his naturall language. He refused going Secretary to the Ambassador at Vienna or Paris from Berlin. This I know, because the offer passed through my hands. He made a scruple to leave young Baron de Ploistro, then studying at Halle. He studied law at

wandering life, he finally settled at Berlin, where he became the chief personal friend and confidant of Frederick the Great, by whom he was appointed Governor of Neufchatel, and Prussian Ambassador, successively, at the Courts of Paris and Madrid. At the request of Frederick to Mr. Pitt, his attainder was reversed in 1759; and he showed his gratitude, two years afterwards, by supplying that Minister with intelligence of the secret Family Compact between France and Spain, of which he had obtained knowledge while resident at Madrid. After his pardon, he remained some time in Britain, negotiating the recovery of his confiscated family estates, in which he was assisted by Baron Mure, and had thoughts of settling at home. Yielding, however, to the urgent solicitations of his Royal friend, who, in one of his letters, threatens to build a fleet and come and carry him off by force, he returned to Germany. He continued to reside at the Prussian Court till his death, which took place in his eighty-sixth year, in 1788. An "Eloge of Milord Maréchal," by D'Alembert, was published at Berlin in the ensuing year. An interesting description of his habits, and of the footing on which he lived with Frederick, is given by L. Dutens, who lived in close intimacy with him at Berlin in 1777. [*Memoires d'un Voyageur qui se repose*; Vol. i. p. 335.] He is also described by Dr. Moore, in the narrative of his travels with the Duke of Hamilton.

The Earl was distinguished for an elegant point and conciseness of epistolary style, and for a ready fund of wit and repartee. Both of these talents will be found happily exemplified in several of his Letters in this Collection. On occasion of his audience with George III. after his pardon, when asked by a friend, as he left the Cabinet, what the King had said to him, he replied, in a passage of an old ballad relative to one of his forefathers—

The King lookit ower his left shoulther,
And a grim look lookit he;
Quoth he, Earl Marischal, but for my aith,
Or hangit thou shouldst be!

He was an early patron of Rousseau, who describes him in one of his letters as his protector, friend, and father; and Scotland as "*L'heureuse terre, où sont nés David Hume, et le Maréchal d'Ecosse.*"

Lord Brougham, in his lately published Life of Rousseau, alluding to this connection, ridicules the above "endearing titles," as applied to one whom his Lordship characterises

Basle; he understands musick. I wish to have an answer as soon as 1764. you conveniently can, because another view may offer to the young man.² His name is Meuron, son to the Commissary General and Councillor of State in Neufchatel.

CXXV.

BARON MURE TO DAVID HUME, ESQ.

Caldwell, 12 May, 1764.

My Dear David,

I have the pleasure of yours of the 28th March. I perceive you are become not only a fine man of fashion,¹ but have even acquired all the delicacy of a fine lady. You take fits of being *out of humour*, and find a *severe day* necessary to write a common letter. A pretty Private Secretary, indeed. The more private the better, say I, if that is the case. Lord, what will this world turn to? But this is treading on tender ground. I was in London when a man was fined in £100 for taking your name in vain.

Seriously, I like your letter and your correspondence. I need not tell you how I like yourself. Pray continue the ——. 'Tis neither the former nor the latter. I don't know how to call it. I have involved

as "a steady old soldier and political intriguer, wholly devoid of any sentiment beyond that of heat and cold, hunger and thirst." We are at a loss to understand where Lord Brougham found authority for so contemptuous, and, as we believe, unmerited a stigma on the memory of his distinguished fellow-countryman;—on a man whom all other authorities to which we have had access—comprising the names of Frederick, D'Alembert, Rousseau, John Moore, Dutens—represent not only as an accomplished gentleman and courtier, but as remarkable for elegant wit, warmth of heart, and delicacy of feeling.

The celebrated Marshal Keith, one of the most distinguished Prussian Generals of the Seven Years' War, was the Earl's brother.

² He was engaged accordingly, to act as tutor in the Baron's family. See Note to No. CLXXVI. and the Introductory Notice.

¹ Mr. Hume was now attached to the British legation at Paris as Private Secretary to Lord Hertford. His previous Letter, above cited, has unfortunately not been preserved.

1764. myself in this period ; but 'tis the middle member of it, your correspondence, that I wish continued.

I'm obliged to you for the trouble you have taken about my man.² I beg you'll deliver to him the enclosed. Lord Marschal had a letter from him only of four days' later date than yours, by which he agrees to come over to me whenever I desire him. If he chuses to see his father, or has any thing else to detain him, there is no matter : he may stay as many months as he pleases. Perhaps before he setts out he'll want some little subsidy to put him in motion. I did not chuse to mention that in his letter ; but if you find it is so, whatever you think proper to draw upon me on that account, shall be *duly honoured*, as the phrase is. I think he may take his passage in a tobacco or a wine ship directly to Scotland ; for, if he were to come the whole way by land, (as you may remember a late historian mentions one of our old English Kings to have done,) it might be rather expensive. But pray direct all that matter with regard to him entirely as you think proper. Don't you approve of my scheme in general for my boys ? I like it because 'tis somewhat new ; and I suppose you will, because 'tis somewhat Frenchified. Fifty pounds per ann. is all he is to have. I could not have got a *dominie* here for a great deal less, and he'll be a novelty at Edinburgh, along with our Italian riding master. But I'm scribbling on, and Katherine will have no room. So adieu, my dear David.

Yours faithfully,

W. M.

POSTSCRIPT BY MRS. MURE.

So from your finery, good cousin, you expect I am to begin the correspondence, and make the first break off even without a subject. But as I used to find fault with a brother philosopher of yours that he could not talk without one, I wont fall into that error, and will, tho' not in the common way, set my worst foot foremost ; for, as you have not favoured me with a letter, (and by your own account of yourself, *it is not for fear*

² Mons. de Meuron, mentioned in last Letter.

of your character,) I have got no ground to go upon to make out one. 1764
 So, when you wish a better one, let me know what particulars you would wish to be informed of; for I don't think we can pretend to entertain you from this side the watter only by letting you know about all your friends. I write this from Caldwell, where Mr. Mure, the Captain,³ and I came about a fortnight ago. So this place can afford nothing entertaining. We go next week to our family at Abbeyhill, and to attend the General Assembly. You would hear Lord Glasgow is appointed Commissioner. All his friends are well pleas'd at this, as it will draw him from the re-cluse way he has been in for some time. I must now have done, as I see, from the paper. So you may suppose I would have been much more entertaining if I had room. Do let me hear from you, and I'll endeavour to be as good a correspondent as I can.

CXXVI.

MR. DAVID HUME TO BARON MURE.

Paris, 22 June, 1764.

My Dear Baron,

Since I was favoured with yours, I saw your young man, (who sends you the enclos'd,) and as he intends to set out for Edinburgh about the end of the month, and I shall set out with the ambassador for Compiègne, in a few days, I thought proper to give 100 crowns for the expences of his journey, according to your direction. It amounts to 13 pounds some odd shillings. I drew upon Jemmy Coutts for it, and desired him to place it to your account. I desir'd Meuron to go to Dunkirk, and there wait for a ship either for Newcastle or Leith. I hope you will be content with him, at least I like his looks and behaviour. Your project is good. The French language is very useful; and if not acquired when one is young, never is thoroughly learned.

³ Captain Alexander Mure, the Baron's uncle.

1764. A few days ago I din'd with the Dutchess of Perth, which was the first time I had seen that venerable old lady, who is really a very sensible woman. Part of our conversation run upon the Douglas affair.¹ There was present a gentleman, an old friend of yours, a person of very good understanding, and of undoubted honour, who laid open to us a scene of such deliberate dishonesty on the part of her Grace of Douglas, and her partisans, as was somewhat new and surprising. I suppose it is all known to poor Andrew,² whom I heartily love and pity. Hay, the Pretender's old Secretary, the only man of common honesty among them, confessed to this gentleman, that he has frequently been shocked with their practices, and has run away from them, to keep out of the way of such infamy, tho' he had afterwards the weakness to yield to their solicitations. Carnegy knows the roguery, as well as all the rest; tho' I did not hear anything of his scruples. Lord Beauchamp, and Dr. Trail, our chaplain, pass'd four month last summer at Rheims, where the affair was much the subject of conversation.

Can anything be more scandalous and more extraordinary than Frank Garden's³ behaviour? Can anything be more scandalous and more ordinary than Burnet's?⁴ I am afraid, that, notwithstanding the palpable justice of your cause, it is yet uncertain whether you will prevail.

I continue to live here in a manner amusing enough, and which gives me no time to be tired of any scene. What between public business, the company of the learned, and that of the great, especially of the ladies, I find all my time filled up, and have no time to open a book, except it be some books newly published, which may be the subject of conversation. I am well enough pleased with this change of life, and a satiety of study had beforehand paved the way for it. However, time runs off in one course of life as well as another, and all things appear so much alike,

¹ See Note 4 to No. CCXL.

² Andrew Stuart; see Note to No. CCIX.

³ Afterwards Lord Gardenstone of the Scottish Bench.

⁴ Afterwards Lord Monboddie. These gentlemen were then engaged as counsel in the Douglas case.

that I am afraid of falling into a total stoicism and indifference about 1764. every thing. For instance, I seem every moment to be touching on the time when I am to receive my credential letter of Secretary to the Embassy, with a thousand a year of appointments. The King has promised it—all the Ministers have promised it—Lord Hertford earnestly solicits it—the plainest common sense and justice seem to require it—yet have I been in this condition above six months, and I never trouble my head about the matter, and have rather laid my account that there is to be no such thing.

Please to express my most profound respects to Mrs. Mure, and my sense of the honour she did me; if I have leisure, before the courier goes off, I shall write her, and give her some account of my adventures: but I would not show her so little marks of my attention as to write her only in a Postscript. I am, dear Baron,

Your's sincerely,

DAVID HUME.

CXXXVII.

EXTRACT OF LETTER FROM MR. ANDREW STUART¹ TO BARON MURE.

[Paris.]

I wrote a note to our friend Mr. Hume, to know if the ambassadour was soon to dispatch a courier to London, mentioning that I had several papers to send to you. His answer is enclosed. I send it to you, not so much for the contents, as to shew you the blunder which the multitude of his cards has led him into. He has writ his answer upon the first piece of paper that presented itself; and this happens to be a very polite invitation from the Duchesse d'Aiguillon,² a lady who is in very high

¹ See Note to No. CCXIX. The part of this Letter containing the date has been torn away, but it must have been written about the same time with the foregoing Letter of Hume.

² Notices of her occur in Horace Walpole's letters, and in Jeffrey's Review of Madame Du Deffand's Memoirs.—Contributions to Edinburgh Review, Vol. I. p. 248.

1764. style here. This is but a small circumstance, if you knew the immense court that is paid to him from all quarters of this country. All ranks of people—courtiers, ladys old and young, wits, and sçavans, vie with one another in the incense they offer up to the célèbre Mons^r. Hume. Amidst all this intoxicating worship, he preserves his own natural style and simplicity of manners; and deigns to be cheerful and jolly, as if no such things had happened to him.³ His manner, though differing in some respects from the French, does not fail, however, to succeed with them. It must be owned that some of his admirers were at first a good deal surprised with the largeness of his figure. They had generally, in idea, clothed him with a person very little encumbered with matter. Diderot, amongst others, was in this mistake, and told Mr. Hume, at their first interview, that in place of taking him for the author of his works, he would have taken him for “*un gros Bernardin bien nourri*.”

CXXVIII.

LORD BARRINGTON¹ TO BARON MURE.Beckett, 24th June, 1764.

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 14th inst^r and I am very glad to find that the persons to whom our friend's petition will probably be refer'd are so favourably disposed. I shall be in London in a few days: I will then see what can be done, and our friend shall hear from me

³ Yet Mason, in his heroic epistle to Sir William Chambers, describes him as “drunk with Gallic wine and Gallic praise.” Horace Walpole, at this time himself in Paris, describes “Hume, Whist, and Richardson, (i.e. his novels,) as the *only Trinity* now in fashion here.”

Hume, in his account of his own Life, says, “Those who have not seen the strange effects of modes, will never imagine the reception I met with at Paris, from men and women of all ranks and stations. The more I resiled from their excessive civilities, the more I was loaded with them.”

¹ See Note to No. cxi.

without delay; of which I beg you will acquaint him, with my best compliments. I have the honour to be, with the greatest regard, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

BARRINGTON.

CXXIX.

LORD PRIVY SEAL TO BARON MURE.

Castle Menzies, 16 July, 1764.

Dear Baron,

I have received a letter from the Provost and Magistrates of Aberdeen, with a sort of commendatory postscript from Scotstarvit,¹ their Member, which letter I here inclose to you; and as the said Provost, or some of the Magistrates who sign the letter, are probably at Edinburgh, at present, at the convention of the Boroughs, I beg you'll take care to see them from me, and let them know that I shall be very glad to do something for Dr. Gerard,² (I believe he was Moderator at the last Assembly,) when a favourable opportunity shall offer, but that at present I have several prior engagements, which I must make good before I can receive any further applications. Pray take care to explain this fully to them, as soon as you receive this letter. I quite forgot to speak to the Advocate, before I left Edinburgh, on a subject he and I talked of last winter at London; I mean about the framing of a law, to pass next session of Parl^t, in order to put a stop to that abominable practice of splitting votes for the purpose of elections. I believe you know I talked to the President,³ Lord Alemoor,⁴ and Lord Pitfour,⁵ on the subject. I had

¹ Scott of Scotstarvit, in Fifeshire, elder brother of the celebrated General Scott, father of the late Duchess of Portland.

² Author of the *Essay on Taste*.

³ Robert Dundas of Arniston.

⁴ Andrew Pringle of Alemoor.

⁵ James Fergusson of Pitfour.

1764. also some conversation with Lord Gardenstoun,⁶ and others of the law, on this head. They all expressed their abhorrence of the present practice, and wished, for the benefit of the country, that some immediate remedy were applied to that growing evil. I hinted to them that I wished that five or six of them would meet together, and concert the affair properly, that a short Act might be immediately framed. Lord Pitfour told me that ten lines of an Act of Parliament would effectually serve the purpose; and he was so good as to throw out his thoughts on a sheet of paper, for my perusal, which he gave me. Now what I wish, really, for the universal benefit of this part of the kingdom, is, that some of the most eminent personages in the law would have a meeting or two on this subject, before the Session rises, that the draft of an Act may be made out forthwith. I shall expect to hear soon from you about the Trustees'⁷ operations in the affair of the new Stamp Offices, &c. &c. Let me know likewise what is done or doing about the building for the Records;⁸ for Lord Morton is pressing me about finishing the purchase of his darling piece of ground; and if the Session rises, and every body runs away now, before anything is concluded, I shall be plagued to death about it. I don't recollect any thing further at present that I have to add, so adieu, dear Baron.

CXXX.

LORD MORTON¹ TO BARON MURE.Chiswick, Saturday, 28th July, 1764.

Dear Sir,

I was informed some time ago that you were present at a visitation

⁶ Francis Garden of Gardenstone.

⁷ Of the Forfeited Estates.

⁸ The New Register Office in Edinburgh.

¹ James, fourth Earl of Morton, Lord Register; a nobleman described by Douglas as "of distinguished abilities and eminent learning." In 1766, while on a visit to Paris, he was imprisoned in the Bastille for three months, with his lady and child, and a sister-in-law; for what reason never transpired.

of places proper for building the Repository for the Records; at which 1764.
time it was the unanimous opinion of the Company, that the ground adjoining to the office of Excise was the only proper situation for that purpose, and that the purchase of that area would speedily be made, seeing Mr. Grenville had consented to it. But, to my inexpressible surprise and concern, I was lately advised that a new scheme had been thought of, for erecting the building upon the area of the old Borrough Room, and some other ground to the southward of it, towards the Meal Market. I viewed every spot of that ground when in Scotland, and am certain that the whole will not afford sufficient space, unless the offices were to be placed in stories one over head another; against which I have very material objections, both with respect to convenience and security, which are too long to be stated in a letter. I hear it has been referr'd to you and the Lord Advocate to consult workmen, and have estimates made, upon this new situation. It is very possible those gentlemen may at present produce lower estimates than the other plan; but if a proper security is to be made for the different Records, (and all of them are of great importance to the community,) I am morally certain theirs would turn out the most expensive job of the two at long run. I know the genius of the craftsmen of Edinburgh, whether they be tradesmen or others, and have seen some of their operations, which are not always laudable. The plan I shewed you has been thoroughly considered by very able artists, and, from its simplicity, would be the cheapest work that could be executed of that extent; neither is there an inch to spare, if we look towards posterity. It is so contrived, that supposing through carelessness a fire should catch in any one of the cells, it would blow out at the window in the top, and could not possibly communicate itself to any other part of the building; and the roof is so contrived that a great number of hands might be present at the same time to give their assistance, which could not be practicable in a structure of any other form, especially where stairs are introduced. All these considerations taken together, with the manifest advantages of having all the offices upon one flat, and under one roof, will I hope induce you to employ your best interest with the Lord Privy Seal to consent to the purchase of that

1764. ground. I have wrote him by this post on the same subject, and I am confident, if the purchase were once made, a variety of funds may be thought of for defraying the expence. The scheme will soon be publickly known over all Scotland, and as I know it to be very practicable, if it should after all miscarry, I am sure it would be matter of general regret throughout all that part of the United Kingdom; and those thro' whose means it did miscarry would not be in odour of sanctity. All the family join in their best compl^{ts} to you and Mrs. Mure;

And I ever am,

Dear Baron,

Your very affect. and most hum^{ble} servant,

MORTON.

Baron Mure.

CXXXI.

LORD PRIVY SEAL TO BARON MURE.

Castle Menzies, 4 August, 1764.

Dear Baron,

You are a woefull correspondent. I write you volumes, and I have had but one answer from you, I don't know when. I am not sure whether I mentioned to you M^{rs}. Oliphant of Gask's memorial, referred to you from the Treasury. 'Tis but a pittance she asks, tho' of consequence to her, so I wish the Exchequer would make a favorable report. Have you delivered my message to M^r. Lockart,¹ advocate, about Lord Erroll's affair, as I beg'd you to do before I left Edin^r? If you have not, pray do it directly. I have had a letter from Lord Napier, recommending one Mr. Maxwell of Dalswinton (who, he says, is both mine and his near relation,) to succeed Sir W^m. Douglas at Borrowstonness. I wish you would acquaint him, either by letter or by word of mouth, but in the

¹ Alexander Lockhart, Esq., afterwards raised to the bench as Lord Covington.

handsomest manner, that it is not possible for me to comply with his 1764. present request, tho' I have had several applications from other people in favour of that same young gentleman; but I can't possibly gratify them in that particular. I hope you have delivered my message to the Provost of Aberdeen, or else you'll leave me in a horrid scrape about it. With respect to what you say about sending you a copy of Lord Pitfour's papers concerning the new Election Law, as he gave them to me for my private perusal, I don't know how far he might like that I should communicate them; but I'll find that out, and act accordingly. I wish you would remind Lord Alemoor of a *certain paper* he was to send me. What I mean is a note of persons most proper for the Bench. This is *entre nous*, remember. I had, while I was at Edinburgh, a letter signed by Lords Strechin,² Alemoor, Kaimes, and Affleck,³ recommending very strongly Rob^t. Leith, Deputy Clerk of Justiciary, for some additional salary. I did not answer the letter then, as I thought it unnecessary; but as I have since had a hint that they seem'd to expect an answer, I wish you would tell them that, when I return to London, I shall see about it, and do what I can for Leith in some shape or other; tho' it was with no small difficulty that I got M^r. Grenville to consent to Muir, the Principal Clerk of Justiciary, his having an additional salary.

I have been examining the last Report of the Board of Annex'd Estates, and the abstracts of the rental and factors' accounts,—the last with an infinite deal of trouble to myself, it is so very confused and perplexed. I believe it is your friend Barclay's clerk that makes out those accounts; I could wish, therefore, he would for the future make them out on a more intelligible plan, of which I'll give him a specimen. I have collected, from an attentive inquiry into these matters, that the whole free rent to be disposed of for general improvements cannot be reckoned above £2500 p^r. ann.; notwithstanding the gross rent of those seven Annex'd Estates amounts to £8500 p^r. ann. Here is a short state, in round numbers, of that matter:—

² Alexander Fraser. See Note 2 to No. CXXXIX.

³ Alexander Boswell of Auchinleck.

1764.	Gross Rent,	.	.	.	.	.	£8500
	Publick burdens about	.	.	.	.	£1000	
	Jointures and Annuities,	.	.	.	.	1500	
	Repairs and buildings,	.	.	.	.	1000	
	Factors' manage ^t in the country,	£1000	}			2400	
	Management at Edinburgh,	1400	}				
	Total deductions,	.	.	.	.	.	5900
	Free surplus at most,	.	.	.	.	.	£2600

But that free surplus of £2600 p^r ann. I believe you seldom get, the drawbacks are so very great. I purpose writing by this post an ostensible letter to L^d Milton, as you desired, recommending D^r Hume to the Magistrates to succeed Rutherford in the Professor's Chair. I have some little scruple about this, as I take D^r Cullen⁴ to be a much more eminent man for the purpose ; but as L^d Milton, you say, seems to have the thing at heart, poor old man ! I can't think of crossing him in a point where his friend and relation is in the question.

Now, adieu, dear Baron. Y^{rs} sincerely.

P.S.—I had almost forgot to mention to you an affair relating to the worthy Dutchess of Atholl—I mean the last Duke's Dutchess. Upon her showing an inclination to go to inhabit Drummond Castle, which her brother Drummond of Megginsh has at present in lease from the Board of Annexed Estates, he most willingly consented to resign it to her, and is desirous that she should have it in the same way he has it, viz. by naming two other tenants with herself, so as that the rent of each may not exceed the legal 20£ a year. I spoke to L^d Milton about this when I came down from London ; so I wish you would talk to him about it, and

⁴ The celebrated Dr. William Cullen, (see Note to No. cclix.) if we may trust Bower's History of the University of Edinburgh, became Professor of Chemistry in 1755 ; of Institutes of Medicine in 1766 ; and of Practice of Medicine in 1773. Dr. John Rutherford was appointed Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine in 1726. He resigned this Chair in 1766 ; was succeeded, however, not by Cullen, but by Dr. John Gregory. See Note 2 to No. cxxxv.

get the thing settled at once. I would not for the world that that good 1764.
 woman, overpowered as she is both with bodily and mental disorders,⁵
 should be teased and thwarted in a trifling affair of this kind; and I learn
 that there are some of the Trustees inclined to cavil about this, as not
 being correspondent to strict law, as they alledge! But pray get it settled
 at once. ADIEU.

John Mackenzie of Delvin is the Dutchess's agent, so he will inform
 you of any thing wanted to be known on the part of her Grace.

CXXXII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Castle Menzies, 10 Augth. 1764.

Dear Baron,

I have yours of the 8th (I suppose) tho' 'tis without a date. I here
 enclose to you some Mem^{ms}. which L^d Pitfour gave on the subject of
 creating Freeholds, as now practised; as you say that the President,
 Alemour, &c. are to have a meeting to morrow (Saturday) on the
 subject, I send the inclosed to you in as expeditious a manner as I can,
 in order that you may receive it previous to that meeting.

I have had a most pressing letter from L^d Morton, about the affair
 of the Records, but I shall take my own way in it. He speaks of the
 papers in the offices of the principal Clerks, which he says are as material
 to be preserved as the others; yet he fears there will be no space allotted
 for them, if the building is erected behind the Parl^t House, and not in
 the place he had fixed upon; but if the thing were once thoroughly
 examined into, we might know to a single foot what space there would
 be, and whether it would fully answer the purpose. I recollect nothing
 further at present, so adieu, Dear Baron.

⁵ In spite of both, however, she married a second husband, Lord Adam Gordon, in
 1767, and lived till 1795.

CXXXIII.

BARON MURE TO DAVID HUME, ESQ.

Caldwell, 16 Sept. 1764.

My Dear David,

This will be presented to you by a young cousin of mine, Mr. Steuart,¹ who was lately a captain in Collonel Græme's Regiment, but, now reduced, goes over to France for his improvement, to spend some time at an academy. You know my intimate connection and friendship with his father Sir James, so you may believe the son interests me too. I must therefore beg leave particularly to recommend him to you, not only to the public marks of attention, by introducing him to the Ambassador, &c. in whose brother's² reg^t. he served a cornet abroad during the war; but, farther, to your private observation and good offices. Pray favour him with your acquaintance, assist him with your advice, and look upon him with the eye of a friend. You are sensible of what importance those obliging services may prove to a young man on his first outset; and I know nobody more capable or more ready to perform them than yourself.

My preceptor is not yet arriv'd, but I expect him daily, as I have heard from him at London. I'm very much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken on his score. Adieu, my dear David. I'll write to you soon at greater length. Believe me ever,

Your most faithful friend and humble servant,

WILL MURE.

To David Hume, Esq.
Paris.

¹ Afterwards General Sir James Steuart of Coltness.

² General Conway.

CXXXIV.

EARL OF EGLINTON¹ TO BARON MURE.

[No Date.]

Dear Baron,

I received yours this morning, and take the first opportunity to thank you for the trouble you have been at.

I should be as far from protecting a knave or a fool as any man, and I have an aversion at jobs; but I really believe, in my conscience, that some of these poor people (I mean the officers who have been broke) are wrong'd most egregiously. The Commissioners have, without distinction, punished the innocent with the guilty, which is not the way to have the King well served. Upon the strictest enquiry, I will venture to affirm that Allison, Borland, and Achairn, never have been concerned, either directly or indirectly, in any such thing as a composition with the smugglers; and if ever it is enquired into, it will be found that Allison not only protested against all compositions, but even seized the part which the compounders intended for themselves, and brought it fairly into the Custom House. As to Achairn, at the time when it is alledged he was guilty of this composition, so far from that, he was almost beat to death because he would not compound, and was carryed off the field of battle for dead.

¹ Alexander, tenth Earl of Eglinton, a popular and public-spirited nobleman, to whom Ayrshire and Scotland are greatly indebted for many valuable improvements in agriculture and other branches of rural or provincial economy. He was shot on the Sands of Ardrossan, on the 24th of October, 1769, by one Mungo Campbell, an officer of Excise at Saltcoats. The particulars of this disastrous affair will be found in a subsequent letter from a friend of Mr. Mure, describing the trial of the offender, who was condemned to be hanged, but committed suicide in jail. As Campbell was well connected in the county, it was, and still is, a current belief among the lower class in Ayrshire, that, through the influence of some powerful friends, he had been allowed to escape from prison, and that the story of the suicide was but a pretext.

1764. Achairn's² estate is to be sold; Borland nor Allison have no votes; so that I only speak from humanity and justice. I shall pay my respects to Mrs. Mure soon; and ever am, dear Willy,

Yours sincerely,
EGLINTOUNE.

CXXXV.

LORD PRIVY SEAL TO BARON MURE.

Castle Menzies, 24 Sep^r. 1764.

Dear Baron,

I received two letters from you lately, when I was in Angus, where I had not a moment's time to write, so I deferred answering them till I could seriously consider their contents. With respect to the Factor, if he answers the character given of him, I think all will go well; tho' as to his skill in agriculture I don't find much said on that head, except that he has been employ'd that way a great part of his life; this might be said of ten thousand people in Scotland, who have not yet learn'd the first elements of the farming business. However, upon the whole, I don't know that you can do better than to engage him. Now, as to the officers of the new Custom House at Rothsay, I have no objection to your list of them; but we shall talk over that matter when we meet at Edinburgh. I have received from Macgowan an account of what the builders have done concerning the place for the Records; he has sent me a draught of the ground, with the depths of the several borings, &c. &c. and the different soils passed thro' in these borings. The builders, it seems, are of opinion, that to bore, pile, and plank that area, so as to make it secure to build

² Extract from a former letter of his Lordship, not here inserted, Jan. 13, 1763:—Dear Willy—Pray be so kind as to recommend James Macnelly of Acharn to be a gager, which will oblige your sincere friend and humble servant.—EGLINTOUN.

This unfortunate client of his Lordship was the representative of a respectable family of small gentry in Ayrshire. Under date 13th June, 1671, a James Macneillie, of Auchairne, is retoured heir of Adam Macneillie, of Auchairne, his father, in the two merk land of Kilphin, and forty shilling land of Auchairne in Carrick.

upon, will cost £2650, an immense sum by way of preparation for building! 1764. so that I am afraid we must lay aside thoughts of that ground for the purpose.¹ However, we shall consider that point when I go to Edinburgh.

I find that many people's ideas run strongly in favour of Dr. Cullen to succeed Rutherford; I have even had letters from learned acquaintances of mine in London, who, for the sake of Literature, are interested in the destination of that Professorship, and wish extremely that Cullen may be the man; tho' I don't believe they know him personally. You will remember I wrote a letter, at your desire, to L^d Milton, expressing my wishes in favour of Dr. Home to be the man.² That letter, you inform'd me, was to be kept private till a fit opportunity should offer to produce it; now, I could wish that that letter were entirely suppress'd, if it could be done without hurting poor L^d Milton; for I could not think of doing that at his time of day, and in his situation, upon any account. Pray let me hear your sentiments on this subject, if it could be proposed in this manner, for instance: that as the world seems to run upon Cullen so strongly, whether it might not be better for Home to drop the competitorship, and succeed to Cullen's present chair, (if that is practicable,) or to fall on some other way of providing for Home.³ I only throw this out to you as an undigested thought that has just now occurred to me; so pray think on't, and let me hear from you about it. As to Eglintoun's Custom House people, neither I, nor any man in Britain could, circumstanced as things are, venture to set his face to such a work as that of protecting Revenue Officers, who have behaved so infamously as those have done; they have acted both knavishly and foolishly. I recollect nothing further at present, so adieu, Dear Baron.

Yours sincerely.

¹ This site, near the Parliament Square, was abandoned in favour of the one where the Register Office now stands, at the south-east corner of the New Town.

² Neither Cullen nor Home were appointed. See Note 4 to No. cxxxi. The Professorship was not in the gift of the Crown, but of the College, where motives of party, rather than public principle, were understood to prevail in the Election.

³ Dr. Francis Home was also a distinguished man, and of European reputation. He became Professor of Materia Medica in 1768.

CXXXVI.

PROVOST DRUMMOND¹ TO LORD PRIVY SEAL.

28 Sep. 1764.

My Lord,

A most extraordinary and unlookt for revolution is about to take place in this city, of which I think it my duty to acquaint your Lordship. It was kept a dead secret till within these few days, and the first openings of it were carried in such a manner that some of the members of the Council were engaged in it ere they knew what they were about; and now they begin to see things in another light. The administration will, in a few days' time, be in verie different hands from what was expected; some of them, I imagine, avowed enemies of your brother's interest, and, what is more surprising still, who themselves had no other hand in this revolution, nor power any how to bring it about, then joyfully to accept of the unexpected offers that were made them.

From the enclosed coppie of a letter which I sent to my Lord Milton yesterday forenoon, your Lordship will be able to guess from what quarter all this has come. I have not had, nor do I now expect an answer. He is confined to his room, and I believe derives all his intelligence from Mr. Alston, who has carried on these extraordinary operations in his name. It's believed he has taken the advantage of L^d. Milton's want of health; for surely, if his Lordship had been as well as I have seen him, he never would have countenanced the filling up of some of the principall offices in the Magistracy with enemies to the present Administration, and

¹ George Drummond, Esq. several times Lord Provost of Edinburgh, eminent for his worth and public services. The square called Drummond Place was named after him. He was grandfather of the present Sir Henry Jardine, and great grandfather of Mr. Home Drummond, of Blair-Drummond, M.P. for Perthshire.

The account given by John Home, in his History of the Rebellion, (pp. 97, 98) of the mode in which Mr. Drummond first acquired an ascendancy in the municipal affairs of the city, in 1745, is not altogether so creditable to him as his subsequent conduct.

This Letter is without signature, but the writer's name is docketted on the back by Mr. Mackenzie.

rejecting others who were known to be the firmest friends to it—such as 1764. my brother Magistrate Mr. Alison, who they have this morning voted out of the leet for being Dean of Guild next year—tho' I told some of the leaders that your Lordship had recommended him thro' Baron Mure for that office, &c., and overturning a plan which he himself had concerted. Every body—friends and enemies—are astonished at it; and he is a wise man who can foresee all the mischief it will occasion, not only in this city, but thro' the kingdom. .

Alison's being Dean of Guild, they, by a great majority in Council this morning, have made impossible by voting him out of the leet; but Lindsay may be elected Provost and one of Mr. Stewart's friends Bailie. Tho' Hogg, a violent enemy to presentations, who they have to-day voted to a Bailie, with a view to elect him, may be dropt. If your Lordship thinks it proper to give orders to my Lord Milton, by the return of this express, they will come time enough.

Pardon my having taken the liberty to suggest this. I do it with great submission, merely to let it be in your power to use it or not as you please.

I have the honor to be, with respect, your Lordship's most faithful and obed^t. servant.

CXXXVII.

MR. ROUET TO BARON MURE.

Brussels, October 9, 1764.

My Dear Willie,

Notwithstanding you and the whole family persist inviolably in keeping a profound silence, I suppose concluding that I am become, by long absence, quite indifferent about every friend and relation, yet I cannot help following the propensity of my own inclination in writing you a few lines from time to time, presuming you are not sorry to hear I am still in the land of the living. I had flattered myself of having the pleasure

1764. of embracing you all soon after Christmas, but various accidents will retard my return till next spring. I set out to-morrow for Paris, where I believe we shall at present make but a very short stay, and proceed into the provinces, beginning with La Bretagne, and visiting all the sea ports and towns from Brest, Nantes, La Rochelle, Rochefort, Bourdeaux, &c. &c. to Marseilles and Toulon; and propose being again at Paris in February, and, after a short stay, return home.

I have staid two months very agreeably at Spa. I lived in great intimacy with your friend Sir Harry Erskine and Lady, who were still at Spa, with Lady Mary Lowther, and wait Sir James his return from England, where he is gone for a few weeks. We had also honest Wattie Scott¹ and Lady Diana, who are both most amiable and agreeable persons. You'll have heard, before this reaches you, of the death of the poor Duke of Devonshire² at Spa. He grew worse every day after he began the waters; but the physicians had ordered his drinking them, so he persisted, and so was hurried out of the world much sooner than otherwise he probably would have been. His corpse passed this place this day for England. My friend Mr. Mitchell³ is still at Spa, and returns to England this winter, but has not taken leave of the Court of Berlin. Lord Shelburne is now here. He says the delay of the sitting of Parliament determined him to come abroad to kill a few months. Colonel Lockhart⁴

¹ Walter Scott of Harden. He married Lady Diana Hume, daughter of the Earl of Marchmont. On the failure of the Earldom in the person of her father, Lady Diana's only son succeeded to the Barony of Polwarth. The present Lord Polwarth is her grandson.

² William, fourth Duke of Devonshire, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in 1755, first Lord of the Treasury in 1756, died 2d of October, 1764, aged 44. "A nobleman," says Lord Chatham, "whose composition and virtues must have endeared him in any times, and render his loss irreparable in the present." — Letter to the Duke of Newcastle, October, 1764. "Here is a chapter for moralising," says Horace Walpole, (alluding to the same event,) "but five and forty, with forty thousand pounds a year, and happiness wherever he turned him! My reflection is, that it is folly to be unhappy at any thing, when felicity itself is but a phantom."

³ Afterwards Sir Andrew Mitchell, K.B. See No. CCXXXII. Note.

⁴ Afterwards Count Lockhart?

and Lady are here. I find she is a great acquaintance of your spouse. 1764.
He has gott what he wanted, and may now probably go still on in the Imperial service. My best regards to your Lady and sisters, the Captain, and every friend who remembers me.

I always am, yours, &c.

WIL. ROUET.

CXXXVIII.

DR. WALKER¹ TO BARON MURE.

Fort Augustus, 24 Oct^r. 1764.

Sir,

After a journey which has afforded me a great deal of pleasure, tho' mixed with some hardships, I am at length arrived at this place, having made a compleat tour through all the Western Islands. Tho' I have spent four months among them, and look'd round me every where as attentively as I could, yet they are so numerous, and of so great extent, that it is but a transient view that a person can acquire of them in that time. I have not, however, been a day idle in examining the natural history, in collecting the native productions, animal, vegetable, and mineral, and in observing the state of agriculture, manufacture, and fisheries in the countries I have visited. Not a few observations have occur'd, which I hope may be of use towards the improvement of those remote parts, and which I hope, against the spring, to have the pleasure of offering to your perusal.

The progress of the English language is a step absolutely necessary

¹ The Reverend Dr. John Walker, Professor of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh, and minister of Colinton, author of various esteemed Treatises, both on his own immediate branch of science, and on Statistics and Rural Economy. The result of the Researches alluded to in this letter, and elsewhere in Mr. Mure's correspondence, was his "Economical History of the Hebrides and Highlands of Scotland," a posthumous work, published in 1812, 2 vols. 8vo.

1764. to civilize and render the people of the Highlands industrious. To gain this end, the Church has of late ordered the ministers, every Sabbath, to preach in English, which I am afraid is rather a mistaken measure. Unless the people are previously instructed in the language, they can never make any proficiency in it by sermons; and when a minister confines his publick instructions to a dozen or twenty persons, which are sometimes all that can understand an English sermon in a parish that contains 2000, this, instead of conciliating, irritates the people, and, in place of propagating, gives them a violent prejudice against the language. There is another way in which this great point is to be obtained: that is by the schools; and it is accomplished by them in the most effectual manner. None of the children, when they come to the charity schools, understand a word of English; but in two years, or in three at most, they learn both to read and to speak it perfectly. Wherever the schools are planted, there our language makes a visible and considerable progress; but there is scarce a vestige of it to be found where they are wanting. In the island of Coll, which contains about 1000 inhabitants, and in Tirey, which contains about 1400, there are no schools, nor any person who can either read the Scriptures or speak English, except sixteen or twenty in the families of three or four gentlemen.

There is one piece of encouragement, which needs be no very expensive one, by which the Linen Manufacture would make a considerable progress in the islands; that is, to furnish the inhabitants with foreign lintseed at prime cost. They are anxious to sow it, and to pay for it, but cannot procure it, and this obliges them to sow their own lintseed, which in many places is the produce of above a hundred generations, and degenerate to such a degree, that one would scarce take the crop to be lint. After pulling, they hang it up to dry in bunches, which are scarce longer than those of sparrow grass. In South Uist, I saw lint upon the same ground, and sown at the same time, rais'd from American lintseed, and the lintseed of the country. The crop of the former was 3 feet 4 inches long, and in the bolls, near ready to pull, on the 2nd of August, while the crop of the latter was only 13 inches long and only in flower; which shews, that, with the same culture, foreign flaxseed is capable to produce

about treble the crop that the lintseed of the country can do, and capable 1764. to produce it also a fortnight more early—an additional advantage which is very considerable.

One of the most effectual encouragements to the fishery in the islands that has occurred to me, would be a large quantity of salt and cask, laid up at two or three places, to be sold to the inhabitants at prime cost. Since the middle of July, the herrings have been swarming on the coasts both of the islands and mainland; but, except a few taken by two gentlemen at Dunvegan in Sky, there has not been a barrel of them preserved. There are a considerable number of boats and nets among all the people on these coasts, who are likewise sufficiently expert at the fishery; but tho' the herrings are in myriads at their door, they can take no more of them than what they can consume fresh, which they sell to the inland inhabitants at fourpence the six score. They complain heavily for want of salt; but the hazard they would run with the Salt Boards, and the other difficulties they lie under in procuring it, are insurmountable. The expedient I have mentioned, if it can be us'd, would probably render the fishery in this part of the kingdom universal and of great moment. I am afraid the Act which at present regulates the fishery is in many things defective, ambiguous, and ill defined. Hence misunderstandings have arisen between the fishers and the inhabitants of the country, and many unjustifiable actions on each side. Several alterations and some encouragement seem still wanting; and, for want of proper regulations, they are tempted to be injurious both to one another and the fishery.

One great obstacle to the improvement of the Highlands seems to be the subsetting of lands—a relick of the old fental system—which it were well was abolished, and that every person who holds land should rent it of the proprietor. The profit of the landlord, the advantage of the publick, the progress of improvement, and the liberty and happiness of the people, demand this. A man who has in tack 30£ a year, will have at least ten or a dozen of subtenants. All the subtenants, which are the body of the people in the Highlands, are tenants at the will of the tacksmen, and are therefore his slaves. I have constantly observ'd that the most op-

1764. press'd man in the South of Scotland is the tenant of a tenant, and it is not to be suppos'd that it is less so in the North.

I us'd to suspect whether the cultivation of potatoes was in fact advantageous to the Highlands, or ought to be encouraged, as they might discourage industry by affording so great a quantity of sustenance with so little labour. But I am now clear that they cannot be too extensively cultivate. They were first introduced in South Wist about twenty-five years ago, and there is now above nine hundred acres under spade and plough culture more than there was then ; the quantity of corn, grass, and cattle, upon many farms in this island, being thereby increased one third during that period. In like manner, there is not a possession in Sky of 20£ a year, which, during 20 years past, has not had, at least, 20 acres of corn field added to it, by planting potatoes in ground never formerly cultivate. These, and a great number of facts of the same kind I have obtained, make it questionable whether any simple rule in agriculture can be established of greater publick utility than this—that in every lease of grounds, in all the uncultivated parts of Scotland, it should be expressly stipulate, that no potatoes should be planted upon any lands wherever the plough or spade have formerly been.

Since I left the islands, I have travers'd all the western parts of Rosshire and Invernesshire, through the worst roads, and in the worst weather, I ever saw in my life. In these countries, and in Sky, the crop is almost quite destroy'd by the winds and rains. The season is so far advanced, and so bad, that I shall soon be fond to return home.

I am, in the meantime, with the greatest respect, Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

JOHN WALKER.

The snow is this day falling thick upon the standing corn.

To the honourable William Mure, Esqr.

One of the Baron's of his Majesty's Exchequer.

CXXXIX.

LORD PRIVY SEAL TO BARON MURE.

Hill Street, Nov. 27, 1764.

Dear Baron,

I have received your several letters, which I shall now answer. I have already recommended John Ker, my nurse's son, to be a Land Carriage Waiter at Glasgow; therefore, if it is not good enough for him, I can't help it, for I can do nothing else for him at present. I am glad you have fixed (as far as depends on your Board,) the affair of the Inspector General of Annexed Estates,¹ tho' the most difficult part is yet to do here. I thought you were to have sent up to the Treasury for H.M.'s approbation the minute of the appointment; why is it deferr'd? I have had one meeting with Mr. Grenville, and as we were in good humour, and he showed facilities on his side, I thought it right to do the same on mine, and yielded to him the affair of the Bamff Sheriff, which he was anxious to have. In order to save me the trouble of writing to Lord Findlater about this, pray go to him from me, and let him know that Mr. Grenville, having expressed very strongly his wishes that Lord Fife should not be refused this request in favour of Urquhart,² particularly at this time, when some concurring circumstances which he mentioned to me, and which were really of weight, made it extremely proper, in a political light, that his request should be complied with, I therefore had consented to it, and intended as to-morrow to give in Urquhart's name, in order to his being appointed, having already mentioned the matter to his Majesty, and had his approbation.

The fact, between you and I, is really this: it was not a thing of moment enough to differ about, and thereby to delay or prevent other matters of much greater consequence taking effect.

¹ See Note to No. xciv.

² James Urquhart, of Meldrum, advocate, who was appointed accordingly.

1764. I shall carry the arrangement concerning Lord Strichen,³ that I whispered you something about before I left Edinburgh, but don't you say a word on't to any body but himself, (to whom I write by this post for the first time about it,) or to Lord Milton, to whom I shall likewise write by this post. My brother says he has not heard a word from you for these several months past. I received Lord Advocate's letter, recommending his deputy (Mr. Murray⁴) for Sheriff of Bamff, so pray let him know what I have here said on that subject; and at the same time you'll inform him that I have received his letter of the 21st instant, about the minister of St. Andrew's being dead, and about the recommendation of the second to become the first. What I told several people a great while ago, that applied to me in behalf of Gillespie, the second minister, was, that if the Town or University, (I don't know which it is,) would make the man whom Mr. Oswald and others recommended to me, their second minister, I would recommend Gillespie, their second, to be first; for what they urged in favour of their application was this: that, from the Revolution downwards, their second minister had constantly been advanced to be first when a vacancy happened. Now, as the King presents the first minister *only*, and the Town presents the second, this was, in plain English, saying that they had virtually presented *both* ministers during that period, and the King thereby had in effect been constantly deprived of his right of presentation. This I think is not a little unreasonable; but if they can manage matters so as that the other man above mentioned shall be second, I am mighty well inclined to serve Gillespie, as Lord Northesk, Lord Advocate, Rossie,⁵ and several others of my friends, have particularly recommended him to me. Now dear Baron,

ADIEU.

³ Alexander Fraser, of Strichen, was stepfather to Mr. Mackenzie, having married the dowager Countess of Bute, daughter of Archibald first Duke of Argyll.

⁴ Afterwards a Judge of the Court of Session, as Lord Henderland.

⁵ Mr. Oliphant of Rossie.

CXL.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Hill Street, Dec. 10, 1764.

Dear Baron,

I write you this short line in great haste, as the post is just going, to tell you that Sir John Delavall stands for Berwick in room of poor Colonel Crauford, and that he has the entire support of the higher powers. Mr. Vaughan, nephew to Watson of Berwick, (and son of Lord Lisburne,) stands against Sir John; and as Watson, by his connexion with the Duke of Newcastle, when First Lord of the Treasury, made most of the Custom House Officers there, they adhere to their old connexions, it seems, which may give Sir John more trouble, and put him to more expence, than he otherwise would be at. Now, my principal concern in this affair is that Lord Northumberland¹ is much interested in Sir John Delavall's success; therefore I am most anxious for it, with great reason; and I am told that there are several Berwick voters residing at Edinburgh, and elsewhere in Scotland, who might be induced to attend the election in support of Sir John. I wish, therefore, you would exert yourself to the utmost in letting it be known that Lord Northumberland's, and, consequently, our wishes, go strongly for Sir John, and that those that wish us well should, if possible, attend the election. Don't lose a moment in enquiring about this.

ADIEU.

¹ The eldest son of this Earl, afterwards Duke, of Northumberland, (ci devant Sir Hugh Smithson,) had married Lady Anne Stuart, daughter of Lord Bute, in July of this year.

CXLI.

JAMES COUTTS, ESQ.¹ TO BARON MURE.

Strand, Dec. 17, 1764.

My Dear Sir,

I would probably have answered your obliging letter of the 25th ultimo much sooner, but you may easily imagin I got business enough at Edinburgh to execute, after a five months' absence, and the meeting of Parliament now approaching.

I think the principall subject of your letter is the affair of the Medical Professor. You know that I have invariably been a looker on in all affairs of this sort ; but, were I to take any part in this, Dr. Home should (*cæteris paribus*) have the preference with me to any one now in my eye ; but I am a very bad judge of his abilities, and was led to believe, by those of the Colledge I conversed with at Edinburgh, that he was greatly less eligible than Black² of Glasgow, who I take to be properly his competitor, and not Cullen. I own I have a very high idea of our Colledge of Medicine, and I think the cherecter of it cannot be kept up at too high an expence ; and, further, that was Dr. Home my own brother, and greatly inferior to Black for the office, that I ought not to be for him in Council ; for, my dear Sir, (without pretending to any great share of public spirit,) what is the promotion of even a brother (in so good a situation as Dr. Home is) to the prosperity of such a Colledge ?

Now, what am I to say to John Stephen ? I surely cannot at least write him till I hear from you again. He has never told me how he would go ; but one thing I am certain of, that he is in no plots ; and if you had not (out of kind intention, indeed, to me,) plotted Hunter³ and him

¹ M.P. for Edinburgh. See Note to No. xcvi.

² The celebrated Dr. Joseph Black, at this time Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine in the College of Glasgow, was appointed to the Chemistry Chair of Edinburgh in 1766.

³ Afterwards Sir James Hunter Blair, Bart. of Dunskey.

into the Council, I still think they would have been better out, unless 1764. the management was in your own or the able hands of Lord Alemoor.

You may show greater part of this, if you think it proper, to Mr. Stephen, or Sir John, or even Lord Alemoor. Do write me when anything occurs you think I should attend to.

My best respects always attend Mrs. Mure, and I am, with regard and truth,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES COUTTS.

CXLII.

THE EARL OF ERROL¹ TO BARON MURE.

Slains Castle, Dec. 26, 1764.

Dear Sir,

Last summer, I sent Mr. Mackenzie a memorial relative to my affair about the estate of Mumrals, to which he did not think it proper to send me any answer. I shall be much obliged to you if you will inform me if Mr. Mackenzie ever mentioned this subject to you, or if he ever gave you any reason for not taking the least notice of a letter I wrote him along with the memorial, and to which I at least expected a card in answer. I beg to hear from you as soon as possible, because, if there has been no mention made to you of this affair, I must directly apply to superior powers, where I hope I shall at least be used with civility. I beg you'll offer Lady Erroll's best respects and mine to Mrs. Mure. Accept of the same yourself from us both, and believe me,

My dear Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ERROLL.

¹ See No. CLIII. Note 1.

CXLIII.

LORD PRIVY SEAL TO BARON MURE.

Hill Street, Dec. 31, 1764.

Dear Baron,

I have now lying before me two or three of your letters, the last whereof is dated the 24th instant. In a very few days after this reaches you, you will receive, at the Annex'd Estates, the King's warrant, in answer to their last, as well as to some parts of a former report of theirs. Whatever proposals of theirs are pass'd over in silence by his Majesty, the Board will understand, are not approved of by his Majesty. You will see, by the King's warrant now to be sent you, that the liberty taken by the Commissioners, to lend out a large sum without taking first H.M.'s pleasure upon it, is by no means agreeable here; and as, at present, the improvement of the Revenue in all its branches is much attended to, you may be sure that the proceedings of that Board will not be overlooked, but, on the contrary, they will be spurr'd on to exert themselves. As there are several improprieties taken notice of in this warrant, it was thought sufficient, for the present, to show that things must not go on as they have done; but in the next warrant I fancy there will be enquiries made into great abatements of Rents, allowance to Factors for incidents, after giving them an annual sum for that purpose, &c. &c. I say these things will probably be taken notice of in the next warrant. As to abatements of Rent, it seems a very improper article; for were those estates in private men's hands, the rents would certainly be greatly raised, at this time of day, instead of being lowered, especially when such large sums have been laid out on the improvements of the estates. It would be difficult, I imagine, to find almost any gentleman's estate in the neighbourhood of those belonging to the King, where the rents are now lower than they were ten or a dozen years ago. That many are much raised since that time, is a well known fact. The Commissioners there-

fore should inquire a little into these matters. With regard to the war- 1764.
rant to the Trustees, you'll receive it soon, and what relates therein to
the Navigation¹ will be conceived pretty much in the terms you wish.

I inclose to you a packet I received by last post from Mr. John Dalrymple.² I send the whole of it to you, to save myself the trouble of giving you an account of it. When you have perused it, return it all to me; but it might not be amiss for you to keep copies of the contents of this packet. What I chiefly send it for to you is, that you may dissuade him from sending that circular letter in the shape it now is, particularly with my brother's name in it, which is highly improper in such a letter, nor indeed should he mention *measures of Government*. He may convey his meaning in other words: both one and the other of these things are improper for himself as a candidate, as well as improper with respect to those he points at. What I would have you tell him from me is, that I have received his letter, but can make no answer to it till I have considered of it, and talked to certain persons on the subject. That is enough for the present. Meanwhile, I ought to be informed how that matter stands, and who there is in the county that might possibly wish to declare himself a candidate, and would be a properer one than Dalrymple. As you wrote me that you were to be absent from Edinburgh for a fortnight, from the 17th instant, I hope you will be returned thither by the time this shall reach Edinburgh.

I do admire yours and Lord Strichen's wisdom, and the confidence you both seem to have placed in my friendship and judgement concerning the affair of the Mint. How could you suppose that I would not take care to get him the office for life, when I gave in his resignation of the Justiciary gown, which was for life? It must either have been thro' stupidity, or with a view to trap him, had I acted as you both supposed me to do. I received his letter on that head, and wrote him a scolding answer; since which I have received and delivered in his resignation; and he would have had his commission for the Mint before now, had it

¹ See Nos. CLI. CLII. LXI. seq.

² See Note 1 to No. CXLIV.

1764. not been for Mr. Grenville's most unnecessary delays. His Majesty's pleasure and approbation is signified, Mr. Grenville has sign'd it; but the other Lords of the Treasury being all out of town, it must wait till two of them return to put their names to it, which I suppose will be in a day or two at most. I shall write to Lord Strichen myself by this post. I find, by a letter I had from Lord Findlater, that he seems hurt about the late affair.³ I am sorry for it, but, as things then stood, there was no help for it. Pray go to him and tell him that I have a particular reason, which he shall know afterwards, for delaying to answer his letter; but I mean to write soon to him.

I had lately a letter sign'd Robert Wallace, I suppose from Wallace the minister at Edinburgh, wishing for my countenance to his son George, who he says is a candidate for the Professorship of Scotch Law, when a vacancy shall happen. Now, the fact is, I don't care to be meddling one way or other in the Professorships appointed by the Magistrates, and I wish you could say something to him from me, signifying my regard for him, and at the same time my disinclination to interfere in the matter. You know I have already, in some degree, burnt my fingers in an affair of this kind.⁴ As to your last letter, recommending Hill to be Keeper of the Sasines, I don't know how to agree to that, for I had fully intended to give that to poor Will. Stewart, a writer at Edinburgh, who has been running my errands for these twenty years past, and who had actually got, as I thought, two little offices in the Exchequer, for which I recommended him two years ago. But you, good Barons, found out that they were not in the gift of the Treasury, but in your own, and gave them to somebody else, tho' one of them was thought here not to have belonged to you in any respect. You'll remember all this, I dare say, for you were then at London. The opportunity having now offer'd to provide for this poor man, *you—a Baron*—again came in the way! But I cannot give him up again: besides you, Patrick Craufurd, and Lord Frederick,⁵ recommended another man for this office two years ago, and that other man

³ Viz. the appointment of Mr. Urquhart to the Sheriffship of Banff. See No. CXXXIX.

⁴ See No. CXXXV. Note 2.

⁵ Lord Frederick Campbell.

I provided for last spring in a better office ; Somervail his name was ; so 1764. that you really would cut me out from serving two people, were I to assent to your proposition. However, I will do nothing finally in it till I hear from you again, in case you can suggest any remedy to the evil I mention. Now, dear Baron, ADIEU.

CXLIV.

ENCLOSURE IN THE ABOVE, No. I.

JOHN DALRYMPLE, ESQ.¹ TO LORD PRIVY SEAL.

Edinburgh, Nov. 24, 1764.

Sir,

I have the honour to send you enclosed, a copy of a circular letter, which I shall send through this county, as soon as Sir Alexander Gillmour sets off for London, which I hear will be in a few days, and hope to make the round of the county before he can be back again.

The weight of administration is great in this county, on account of those who are not in office, or who have views to it, and of the connexions of both. However, if you find it inconvenient to give me any declaration of your sentiments, I do not ask it. Only permit me to say, that men's minds being irritated against Sir Alexander Gillmour at present, on account of his parliamentary conduct, *now is the time* to make advantage of it ; a delay which gives occasion for the greatest heats to cool, may lose the opportunity of securing this (as it is called) first county of Scotland,² to the interests of his Majesty, and of your family. Give me leave to add, that the friends to Administration should at least be told not to engage themselves to Sir Alexander Gillmour, and that

¹ This gentleman, afterwards Sir John Dalrymple, Baronet, was eldest son of Sir William Dalrymple, of Cousland, and father to the present Earl of Stair. He obtained celebrity by his "Memoirs of Great Britain and Ireland ;" and was author of various other Treatises, historical and political. He succeeded to the baronetcy in 1770 ; in 1776 was appointed a Baron of Exchequer, and died in 1810.

² The county of Midlothian. Sir Alexander Gilmour was re-elected at the General Election in 1768, and was succeeded in 1774 by Henry Dundas, afterwards Lord Melville.

1764. attention should be pay'd to create votes. A great number may be made. Baron Mure, and Mr. Ross, who alone know my present intention, can give directions about these votes.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,
Your most obedient humble servant,
JOHN DALRYMPLE.

I have likewise taken the liberty to inclose a state of the votes of the county.

To the Lord Privy Seal, &c.

CXLV.

ENCLOSURE, No. II.—COPY OF CIRCULAR LETTER.

JOHN DALRYMPLE, ESQ. TO THE FREEHOLDERS OF MIDLOTHIAN.

Sir,

I find it very disagreeable to many Freeholders of this county, that the first county of Scotland should be represented by a gentleman, who, (though in every other respect unexceptionable,) is joined in opposition to his Majesty's measures in Parliament; an opposition which was at first set on foot against Lord Bute, for no reason on earth, but because he was a Scotchman, and which has since been continued against the measures of the very best of Kings. For this reason I doe myself the honour to offer my services to the county, as a Candidate, at the next General Election, and take the liberty to beg your vote and interest, for myself, upon that occasion. My numerous relations and friendships in the county make me flatter myself with the favour of it. But if it shall appear to the generality of the Freeholders, that there is any other gentleman who has better pretensions to that favour than I have, and who, they believe, will act on the same principles in Parliament on which I shall doe, I will not press myself on the county. What I chiefly wish, is to give the Freeholders an opportunity of chusing a representative, who may speak their sentiments of attachment to the measures of

Government, instead of indulging *his own* opposition, contrary to what I 1764. truly believe to be the sentiments of every Freeholder of this county, without a single exception.

I flatter myself, that my being the first to assert the credit and character of the Freeholders, and to give them opportunity of showing their dissapprobation of the present unjust opposition, will entitle me to your favour.

I have the honour to be, &c.

CXLVI.

ENCLOSURE, No. III.

STATE OF THE VOTERS OF MIDLOTHIAN.

AGAINST SIR ALEX. GILLMOUR.

I. *With Sir Alexander Dick.*

Sir Alexander Dick, for Mr. Dalrymple.

Sir Andrew Lawder.

Mr. Rig of Morton, related to Mr. Dalrymple, and
much connected with him.

Captain Christy, Lord Abercorn has likewise in-
fluence with him.

Mr. Foulis of Ratho.

5

II. *With Mr. Dalrymple.*

Mr. Dalrymple.

Mr. Hamilton M'Gill, father-in-law to Mr. Dalrymple.

Captain Hugh Dalrymple, uncle to Mr. Dalrymple.

Mr. Fullerton of Carberry, related to Mr. Dalrymple.

Mr. Tod of Hayfield, Lord Lawderdale has likewise
influence here.

Mr. Gartshore, elder.

9

Mr. Marjoribanks, will be directed by his father-in-law, Mr. Stuart of Buckingham Street, uncle to Mr. Elliot.

Captain Sandilands, brother to Lord Torphichen.

Mr. Watson of Murrays, . . . uncle to the President, but is 1764.
 grumbling, and has sons in
 the army and fleet.
 Mr. Russell, Agent for the Crown.
 Sir William Baird, Captain in the Navy.
 Mr. Inglis of Rudhall, . . . has offices of consequence in
 the Revenue.

 7

V. *With Lord Milton, from personal attachment.*

Lord Milton, related to Mr. Dalrymple, and
 Mr. Dalrymple flatters him-
 self his friend.

Sir Robert Myreton.

Mr. Campbell of Balerno, . . . will vote for Mr. Dalrymple.

Mr. Durham Cunningham, . . . yet he was secured at last elec-
 tion for Sir Alexander
 Gillmour, by Mr. Mitchel,
 resident at Vienna,¹ and
 will be secured again, un-
 less Mr. Mitchel spoke to.

Mr. Young of New Hall, . . . nephew to Mr. Stuart, at Lon-
 don, King's Remembrancer.

Mr Finlay of Waliford.

 6

In all 38.

FOR SIR ALEXANDER GILLMOUR.

I. *Voters with Sir Alexander Gillmour.*

Sir Alexander Gillmour.

Sir John Inglis.

Mr. Inglis.

Mr. Lyttleton of Libberton.

¹ A mistake, for Berlin. See Note to No. CCXXXII.

1764. Mr. Baird of New Baith.
 Mr. Howison of Braehead, . . . related to Mr. Dalrymple, but
 has no connexion with him.
 Mr. James Clerk, . . . yet Sir James,² though connect-
 ed with Sir Alexander Gill-
 mour, wants an opposition in
 the county. Commissioner
 Clerk,³ his brother, has in-
 fluence with him.

 7

II. *With Lord President.*

- Lord President, . . . related nearly to Mr. Dalrymple,
 but the familys have allways
 differed in county politicks.
 Mr. Turnbull of Curry, . . . but his son is an officer, and, as
 he is Collector of Cess, he
 may possibly go with the
 side that is uppermost.
 Mr. Mitchelson of Middleton, . . . his brother is an officer.
 Mr. Forest of Commiston.
 Mr. Balfour Ramsay, . . . has sons in the army.
 Mr. Balfour Ramsay, younger.
 Mr. Craig of Riccarton, . . . related to Mr. Dalrymple, but
 nephew to the President.
 Mr. Cockburn of Cockpen, . . . related to Mr. Dalrymple, but
 cousin german to the Pre-
 sident.
 Mr. Henry Dundas, . . . brother to the President.
 Mr. Edmonston, elder.
 Mr. Edmonston, younger.

 10 [11]

² Sir James Clerk of Pennycuik.

³ Afterwards Sir George. See Nos. LXV, and LXXXV.

III. *With Lord Hopeton.*

1764.

Mr. Charles Hope.
 Mr. William Hope.
 Mr. Sheriff of Craigleith.
 Mr. Watson of Saughton.

In all 27.

Voters uncertain, but of whom one half may be counted on.

Mr. Fairholm of Greenhill, . . . will be directed by Lord Marchmont.

Mr. Lockhart of Carnwath, . . . related to Mr. Dalrymple, but has no connexion with him. Mr. Lockhart, Dean of Faculty, will have influence with him.

Mr. Hepburne of Clerkington.

Mr. Trotter of Morton Hall, . . . } Sir Alexander Dick connected
 Mr. Warrender of Bruntesfield, . . . } with both.

Mr. Brown of Greenbank.

Mr. Ainslie of Pilton, settled abroad.

Mr. Scott of Malleny, his son an officer, and himself connected with Mr. Ross.

Mr. Pringle of Torsonce, uncle to Major Pringle, Member for Berwickshire, and to Sir John Hall.

Andrew Chalmers.

Mr. Pringle of Symington.

Mr. Borthwick of Crookston.

Mr. Wilkison of Chester Hall.

Mr. Tytler, will be influenced, probably, by Mr. Rae, advocate.

Mr. Scott Nisbet, sold out.

Mr. Newton of Curryhill.

Mr. Dewar of Vogry.

Mr. Brown of Braid, probably with Mr. Dalrymple.

1764. Sir Alexander Gibson, . . . an old Tory, but takes the oaths
now, and influenced by Lord
Morton.
- In all 19.

Votes ready to put on the Roll.

Lord Adam Gordon.

Mr. Wauchope of Niddry, . . . Mr. Wauchope of Kaickmuir
connected with him.

Sir Hugh Dalrymple, . . . with Mr. Dalrymple.

Mr. Lauder, . . . son to Sir Andrew Lauder.

Mr. Carmichael, . . . married to Sir James Clerk's
sister; he will be directed
by Lord Hyndford.

Votes that might be created.

Mr. Wauchope of Kaickmuir.

Mr. Calderwood of Polton's son.

Lord Somerville has two votes.

Mr. Cathcart, . . . has a valuation, but not divided.
He will be directed by Baron
Grant.

Lord Milton has votes.

Mr. Craufurd, . . . son to the late Ronald Craufurd,
has a valuation; will goe with
Mr. Ross.

Mr. Pringle of Crichton, Mr. Charteris, and others, could create votes.

Mr. Fraser of Ford told me he would get a vote, if it was needed.

END OF VOLUME FIRST.

¹
Yours most sincerely
Thos Miller

³
Yours ever
G. W. Elmer

²
Yr Affct Cousin & Son
Wm. R. R. R.

⁴
Yours very sincerely
David Hume

⁵
I am yours
you know my Hand

⁶
your most affectionate and
most humble Servt
Ja: Stuart

⁷
Wm. Leechman Principal
Rob: Simson. M.A. &

William Fuller M.D. P.
Joseph: Black M.D. P.

Adam Smith. P.P.

Gerancio Home M.D.

Thos Reid P.P.

Alex Monroe junior M.D.

John Anderson L.L.O.P.

⁸
J. G. Elmer

⁹
most affect: & yours
Bate.

10

your most obedient
 humble servant
 Argyll

11

Dear Baron
 Sincerely yours —
 Mackenzie

12

most affectionately
 & sincerely yours
 R. Wood

14

your most obliged &
 sincere servant
 Robt Adam

13

your faithful
 humble servant
 J. Kirkison

15

your faithful & affec-
 tionate humble servant
 William Robertson

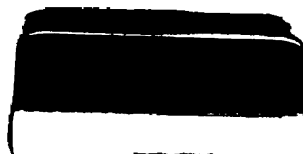
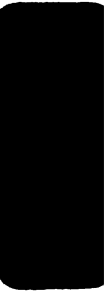
16

ever with the greatest regard

your most humble and obedient servant
 Maria Hall

17

Yours most faithfully and
 affectionately And Stewart



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563

